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Quadrilateral Meeting Held To Prod GATT Talks

Ministers Arrive; Session Previewed

OW2404124892 Tokyo KYODO in English 1231 GMT 24 Apr 92

[By Ikuji Nakaya]

[Text] Kitashiobara, Fukushima Pref., April 24 KYODO—Trade ministers from several major economic powers arrived Friday at this northern Japanese resort for a three-day meeting, hoping to map out plans for an early conclusion of the long-stalled Uruguay Round of multilateral trade talks.

Kozo Watanabe, Japanese minister of international trade and industry, noted at an opening reception that the world is focusing on whether the participants will be able to open the way for an early resolution of the global trade negotiations, which are being held under the auspices of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT).

Besides Watanabe, U.S. Trade Representative Carla Hills, European Community (EC) Commission Vice President Frans Andriessen, and Canadian International Trade Minister Michael Wilson will be attending the discussions that get under way Saturday morning.

The meeting here at the Urabandai Royal Hotel in Kitashiobara, Fukushima Prefecture, near Lake Inawashiro, will last through Sunday.

The current round of 108-nation GATT trade talks, launched in 1986, has yet to be concluded, largely because of differences over farm policies.

On Wednesday, U.S. President George Bush, Jacques Delors, president of the EC Commission, and Portuguese Prime Minister Anibal Cavaco Silva, president of the EC Council, met in Washington and agreed to seek "concrete progress" to break the trade deadlock by the end of June, before the scheduled July meeting in Munich of leaders of the group of seven (G-7) leading industrialized nations.

The GATT talks will be the focus of discussion Saturday morning. Possible assistance to the former Soviet republics is likely to be discussed over a dinner hosted by Watanabe on Saturday evening.

A bilateral meeting between Watanabe and Andriessen is also expected on Saturday, with the spotlight on such issues as restraining Japanese car exports to the EC.

On Sunday, ministers will exchange views on post-Uruguay Round issues like the relationship between trade and protection of the environment, as well as on anticompetitive measures in trade.

Commenting on the possibility of a U.S.-EC bilateral meeting, Hills described it as "most likely," while Andriessen said that while he does not intend to "negotiate," there will be plenty of time to see each other to create a better climate.

According to a Japanese Government source, a separate Watanabe- Hills meeting will take place in Tokyo on Monday.

Talks Open 25 April

OW2504011792 Tokyo KYODO in English 0042 GMT 25 Apr 92

[Text] Kitashiobara, Fukushima Pref., April 25 KYODO—Trade ministers from four major economic powers met Saturday [25 Apr] in this northern Japanese resort for talks aimed at prodding stalled global trade talks.

U.S. Trade Representative Carla Hills, European Community (EC) Commission Vice President Frans Andriessen, Canadian International Trade Minister Michael Wilson, and Japan's Minister of International Trade and Industry Kozo Watanabe, are to seek ways to contribute to the Uruguay Round of talks.

Those talks, held under the auspices of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT), are deadlocked mainly over farm trade.

Watanabe, host of the 21st quadrilateral meeting that ends Sunday, was to urge his counterparts to seek a major breakthrough in the trade talks by the end of June, before a July meeting of the heads of seven major industrialized nations in Munich, senior Japanese Government sources said.

Asked what kind of proposal Japan is willing to make, the sources said Japan must first identify "new ideas" discussed Wednesday in Washington by the United States and the EC.

U.S. President George Bush met with EC Commission President Jacques Delors and Portuguese Prime Minister Anibal Cavaco Silva, who holds the EC's rotating presidency, to agree on sorting out "concrete progress" by the end of June after exchanging the new ideas. Details of the ideas were not disclosed.

The four trade leaders are also expected to discuss possible aid to the former Soviet Union at the session, which opened Friday with a banquet.

Later Saturday, Andriessen and Watanabe are to meet in Fukushima City for bilateral talks expected to include an exchange of views on such issues as cutting Japan's auto exports to the EC.

Participants at the quadrilateral meeting are to take an afternoon excursion to historic and scenic spots near the conference site, including Tsuruga Castle in Aizu Wakamatsu City.

Ministers Fail To Break Deadlock

OW2504044992 Tokyo KYODO in English 0433 GMT 25 Apr 92

[Text] Kitashiobara, Fukushima Pref., April 25 KYODO—Top trade officials from four major economic powers failed

Saturday to give direction to the long stalled global trade talks, a Japanese Government source said.

U.S. Trade Representative Carla Hills, European Community (EC) Commission Vice President Frans Andriessen, Canadian International Trade Minister Michael Wilson, and Japanese International Trade and Industry Minister Kozo Watanabe will continue the discussions Sunday at this northern Japanese resort, the source said.

"There won't be anything coming today that I can tell you of," the source said.

The trade officials are seeking ways to prod along the Uruguay Round of talks held under the auspices of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT), which are deadlocked mainly over farm policy disputes between the United States and the EC.

They actively debated the status of the GATT talks, what participants could do to bring them to a successful conclusion, and times and places for further talks, said the source, who attended the conference.

The source said the U.S. and EC sides described talks they had held Wednesday in Washington as helpful, but they failed to break their deadlock.

According to another senior Japanese Government official, who declined to be identified, Watanabe asked the U.S. and the EC to explain the "new ideas" that President George Bush, EC Commission President Jacques Delors, and EC Council President Anibal Cavaco Silva discussed at their Washington summit.

But both sides refrained from giving a clear picture of those talks, the official said.

He said Hills criticized a Japanese list of agricultural products for which domestic protection is to be reduced as being less open than its list for the industrial sector. The official took Hills' comment as a call for Japan to open its market to rice imports.

Watanabe urged Hills to review a U.S. draft to limit application of most-favored-nation (MFN) trade status if countries do not accept U.S. requests to liberalize their telecommunications markets, the official said.

The Japanese trade minister also called on Canada and the EC to present as soon as possible their support-reduction list for industrial products, the official said.

Further on Results of 1st-Day Talks

OW2504085892 Tokyo KYODO in English 0847 GMT 25 Apr 92

[By Ikuji Nakaya]

[Text] Kitashiobara, Fukushima Prefecture, April 25 KYODO—The top trade officials from the world's four major economic powers Saturday failed to come up with ways to conclude the lagging Uruguay Round of multilateral trade talks, Japanese Government sources said.

The quadrilateral talks are being held in Kitashiobara, a northern Japanese resort, by European Community (EC) Commission Vice President Frans Andriessen, Canadian International Trade Minister Michael Wilson, U.S. Trade Representative Carla Hills, and Kozo Watanabe, Japan's minister of international trade and industry.

They will continue seeking ways to give direction to the long- stalled trade talks held under the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT), at their working breakfast meeting Sunday, the sources said on condition of anonymity.

Watanabe will propose ending controversial farm negotiations by the end of June, with an eye toward concluding the Uruguay Round negotiations this summer, a top Japanese government source said.

The present situation in the trade talks, what participants must do to end them successfully, and schedules of further negotiations were discussed at the first plenary session of the four-way ministerial meeting, which lasted for more than three hours.

The current round of trade talks, more than five years old, have been deadlocked mainly due to differences over agricultural policies, including farm subsidies.

Negotiators failed to meet an Easter deadline to end the talks set by GATT Director General Arthur Dunkel.

In Washington on Wednesday, President George Bush met with EC Commission President Jacques Delors and EC Council President Anibal Cavaco Silva, who is also the Portuguese prime minister, to seek ways to break the impasse.

Instead, they exchanged undisclosed "new ideas," and failed to advance the talks.

A Japanese Government source, who attended the Saturday meeting, quoted Andriessen as saying the EC was "more encouraged than discouraged" by Wednesday's summit and similar remarks came from Hills.

But the source said technical aspects of the "new ideas" were left untouched, despite Japan's request for their clarification.

As for what negotiators can do to end the talks successfully, the EC delegation repeated its call for eliminating remaining high tariffs en route to achieving breakthroughs in market access.

Watanabe suggested establishing a multilateral trade organization (MTO) to enhance GATT's dispute-settling capability, by using the MTO to analyze and monitor trade policies.

The Japanese trade minister, referring to current developments in the multilateral negotiations, expressed concern about delays by some countries in their presentations of plans to reduce tariffs on industrial products.

Watanabe also criticized a U.S. draft proposal to limit application of most-favored-nation (MFN) trade status if countries do not accept Washington's requests to liberalize their telecommunications market.

Participants remained split on a possible separation of farm talks from other fields such as services trade, the source said.

The issue has been supported by those who hope to speed up the talks by making such a separation, but farm exporters and developing countries are reluctant to do so.

No direct reference was made to Japan's opening of its rice market, the source said. Rice is currently protected under claims that Japan needs to be self-sufficient in its staple food for security reasons.

The source said he could feel "enthusiasm" by participants at this weekend's meeting to tackle the trade deadlock, but "whether there is a wisdom (for a solution)" is another matter.

In the evening, the trade ministers are to discuss aid to the former Soviet Union, but they May also refer to the Uruguay Round.

A senior Ministry of International Trade and Industry (MITI) official said the assistance to the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS) will focus on transforming the military industry to private industry, dissolving monopolies to beef up competitiveness, possible GATT membership for the republics, and nurturing of small and medium-sized corporations.

The second round of the meeting will be held Sunday, the final day of the three-day session, where post-Uruguay Round negotiations are expected to be on the table.

Watanabe plans to make a three-point proposal on the relationship between trade and the environment.

He is expected to call for countries to have domestic restraints on environmentally hazardous goods before imposing restrictions on trade in those goods, minimizing the effects of trade limitations, and developing international rules for such limitations.

Participants also are to exchange views on trade and competition policies.

Initially, the ministers were to discuss Asian topics such as possible GATT membership of China and Taiwan at their Sunday working breakfast.

Ministers Discuss Aid to CIS

OW2504161892 Tokyo KYODO in English 1511 GMT 25 Apr 92

[By Ikui Nakaya and Keiko Tatsuta]

[Text] Kitashiobara, Fukushima Pref., April 25 KYODO—**The top trade officials of four major economic powers Saturday supported Russia's membership in the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT), a senior Japanese Government official said Saturday.**

The representatives from the United States, Canada, the European Community, and Japan all showed understanding on the idea, said the official, who spoke on condition of anonymity.

The officials discussed the topic over a dinner hosted by Japanese Minister of International Trade and Industry Kozo Watanabe in Fukushima Prefecture, where they are holding a three-day quadrilateral trade meeting.

The issue was brought up by Watanabe, who seeks to offer what help Japan can give to Russia within the limits it imposes due to a territorial dispute, the official said.

The four officials also supported future GATT membership for China and Taiwan, an issue also raised by Watanabe.

The official said they all expressed understanding toward measures taken by China and Taiwan to attain membership.

Watanabe, EC Commission Vice President Frans Andriessen, U.S. Trade Representative Carla Hills, and Canadian International Trade Minister Michael Wilson also discussed possible assistance to the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS) focusing on microeconomic areas, the official said.

These include supporting disintegration of monopolies to create competition, converting military industry to private production, nurturing small and medium firms, attracting foreign investment, and industrial cooperation.

The topic is due to be continued at a meeting of trade and economic ministers May 7-9 in Munster, Germany, where several countries from the West and the former Eastern Bloc will meet mainly about possible microeconomic assistance to former communist nations.

Watanabe's participation in the Munster meeting is yet to be decided, the official said.

The officials reportedly did not talk about the deadlocked GATT Uruguay Round of multilateral trade talks but are expected to exchange views on the subject at a working breakfast Sunday, and possibly at the second plenary session of the meeting.

They failed to map out any specific plans to break the impasse at the first plenary session Saturday morning, largely hindered by disputes on farm policy.

During the morning session, Watanabe suggested a deadline be set to conclude the stalled talks, a top government source said.

Watanabe is expected to propose at the Sunday working breakfast that "this summer" be a target to wrap up the round which started in 1986, the source said. A more precise time was not given.

The officials generally agreed it is necessary to proceed with the trade negotiations without break and shared hopes of putting forward other issues, such as services and legal drafting, separately from the deadlocked agricultural issues, the source said.

He said he believes both the U.S. and EC will make every effort to settle their dispute over farm policies by the end of June before the Munich summit of seven major industrial nations scheduled for early July.

EC Concerned Over Tokyo's Policies

OW2504094092 Tokyo KYODO in English 0932 GMT 25 Apr 92

[By Keiko Tatsuta]

[Text] Kitashiobara, Fukushima Prefecture., April 25 KYODO—The European Community (EC) expressed concern Saturday over Japanese trading policies that seemingly favor the United States, a Ministry of International Trade and Industry (MITI) official said.

During a meeting with MITI Minister Kozo Watanabe, EC Commission Vice President Frans Andriessen suggested Japan's market liberalization steps are drawn up to please U.S. interests, citing a Japan-U.S. automobile agreement reached in January, the official said.

Watanabe and Andriessen are here for a three-day trade ministers' meeting which ends Sunday, together with U.S. Trade Representative Carla Hills and Canadian International Trade Minister Michael Wilson.

Referring to the recent expansion of the EC's trade deficit with Japan, Andriessen said he cannot help worrying about whether the trade imbalance has been artificially caused, regardless of EC industries' competitiveness, the official said.

Andriessen was quoted as saying the EC cannot complain about a trade imbalance as long as it occurs under normal competition.

Watanabe said Japan will equally apply to third countries the trading policies embodied in the "Action Plan" agreed between Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa and U.S. President George Bush in January, the official said.

Under the plan, Japanese automakers agreed to try to increase purchases of U.S.-made parts to 19 billion dollars in fiscal 1994 from 9 billion dollars in 1990.

Watanabe explained the figure was offered on the basis of the private sector's judgment, saying Japan will seek a more favorable relationship with the 12-nation trading bloc so as not to be misunderstood, the MITI source said.

Andriessen said, however, he doubts the results of the Structural Impediments Initiative (SII) between Japan and the U.S. will be implemented, while acknowledging Japan's faith to treat each trading partner equally.

Statistics and public opinion sometimes contradict Japan's assertions, Andreissen was quoted as saying.

As favoring bilateral negotiations over multilateral ones could conflict with international trade rules like the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT), Andriessen said the EC will try to avoid an approach like the SII, according to the official.

Both said they were very happy to have concluded talks on monitoring Japanese vehicle exports to the EC, the official said.

Japan has just agreed to cut its 1992 car exports to the EC by some 6 percent from the 1991 level to about 1,185,000 vehicles [sentence as received].

Japan

Commentary on G-7 Joint Communique Reported

Kato Views Tokyo's 'Principle'

OW2704083292 Tokyo NHK General Television Network in Japanese 0300 GMT 27 Apr 92

[Text] Referring to the G-7 industrialized nations' joint communique in which they agreed to provide $24 billion to Russia, Chief Cabinet Secretary Koichi Kato said the agreement does not contradict Japan's principle of not separating political considerations from economic interests.

Kato said that the $24 billion in financial aid to Russia, which the G-7 nations agreed on in the joint communique, would be provided through international organizations like the International Monetary Fund; the agreement calls for no further financial support from Japan. Thus, it does not contradict the principle of not separating political considerations from economic interests, Kato said. In this way, Kato indicated that the financial aid to Russia which the G-7 nations agreed on does not contradict Japan's principle in which Japan expresses its intention not to begin full-scale financial assistance to Russia unless the northern territorial issue is settled.

Communique Called 'Wishy-Washy'

OW2704101892 Tokyo KYODO in English 1008 GMT 27 Apr 92

[By Mitsuru Mabuchi]

[Text] Washington, April 27 (KYODO)—The world's seven richest countries have agreed on the diagnosis of the world economic health but none of them was willing to take the medicine they have prescribed themselves.

As a result, they have come up with a wishy-washy communique that will not give any substantial help to the ailing world economy, economists said.

But the economists argued that Japan should take the pill anyway for its own good.

The Group of Seven (G-7) major industrial countries released a communique on macroeconomics, which called on each country to tackle their own economic malaises, thereby contributing to global growth.

In particular, it called on Japan to boost domestic demand to reduce its trade surplus and for Germany, which has been under fire for its mix of tight monetary policy and loose fiscal policy, to "follow a balanced policy approach."

Both Japanese and German policymakers cited economic concerns as they spurned such calls even before the beginning of the G-7 meeting, which involved top economic policymakers from Britain, Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, and the United States.

"It seems all the major industrial countries are intent on pursuing domestic policy goals, not international policy goals," said Russell Jones, senior economist at UBS Phillips and Drew International.

While admitting Germany is in very hot water and cannot move immediately, analysts say Japan should follow the G-7 advice if it wants to secure recovery and trim trade surplus.

"G-7 pressure or not, Japan should take additional fiscal stimulus for its own good and that as early as possible" said Masaru Takagi, chief economist at the Fuji Research Institute.

If Japan fails to do so, the "trade surplus will go through the roof," Jones said.

Finance Minister Tsutomu Hata responded to the G-7 call by arguing that Japan has done enough and doing more will only create inflation.

Hata found some supporters among economists in the private sector.

"I think it is fair to say that the Japanese have done rather a lot already to try to support their own economy and ultimately to support the rest of the world through higher domestic demand and ultimately higher imports," said Stephen King, a London-based international economist with James Capel and Co.

"The situation currently is one where policy has been eased quite significantly already and I think the danger would be that if the policy were eased any further, then Japan would be in danger of experiencing a rerun of what we saw in the late 1980s, in terms of asset price booms or possible increases in inflationary pressures," he said.

But Russell Jones said he is "not convinced that Japan has done enough."

He predicted that it will take a year and a half for the growth of the Japanese economy to hit its potential, which he estimated to be between 3.7 and 4.0 percent annually.

Fuji Research's Takagi said Japan is the only country among the G-7 members that can implement the measures called for in the communique.

G-7 ministers apparently shared Takagi's perception.

"Obviously, the Japanese have some room on the fiscal side and I think that was acknowledged," said Donald Mazankowski, Canada's finance minister, after the Sunday meeting.

Both Takagi and Jones look for a sizable supplementary budget in fall to follow through the spending package which Japan unveiled a month ago.

Official Gives 'Cold Shoulder' to U.S. Remarks

OW2504235092 Tokyo KYODO in English 2325 GMT 25 Apr 92

[By Mitsuru Mabuchi]

[Text] Washington, April 25 KYODO—A top official of Japan's Ministry of Finance (MOF) Saturday sniped at a United States call on Japan to take additional steps to boost its flabby economy, and said Tokyo has no plan to do so.

The official criticized U.S. Treasury Undersecretary David Mulford's remarks urging Tokyo to provide more monetary and fiscal stimulus to rev up the economy.

The official, who declined to be identified, said suggesting further monetary easing would spoil the effects of previous interest rate cuts by creating expectations in the market for another cut and leading companies to delay borrowing money for investments.

"We have no plan for additional measures whatsoever," he told reporters at the new Tokyo International Airport at Narita just before leaving for meetings in Washington.

"Saying that kind of thing will only backfire and demolish the effects of the measures we have already taken," he said.

The Japanese Government announced a fiscal spending package on March 31 to enliven sluggish domestic demand, and the Bank of Japan lowered the official discount rate the following day by 0.75 percentage point to 3.75 percent.

Mulford said at a press conference Thursday that Japan should cut interest rates further and take budget action to help get its faltering economy back in shape.

"We feel Japan has some room for maneuver," he said.

The MOF official said, "Making such comments in public is queer."

The MOF official's cold shoulder to the U.S. request came hours before Finance Minister Tsutomu Hata was to meet U.S. Treasury Secretary Nicholas Brady in Washington prior to the meeting of top financial officials of the Group of Seven (G-7) leading industrial countries.

In the meeting, scheduled Saturday afternoon, Brady is expected to press Japan to shore up weak domestic demand to provide a boost to world economic growth and help reduce Japan's growing trade surplus.

MOF officials said Hata will explain the steps that Japan has already taken to support the economy, seeking to convince the U.S. that the measures eventually will put the Japanese economy back on an upward course.

The MOF official said the recovery will come earlier than many economists in the private sector believe.

"We are already seeing some bright signs," he said, pointing to signs the declining housing sector has bottomed out.

"The economy will take an upturn before too long."

Hata Meets With U.S. Treasury Secretary Brady

OW2604023192 Tokyo KYODO in English 0212 GMT 26 Apr 92

[By Mitsuru Mabuchi]

[Text] Washington, April 25 KYODO—U.S. Treasury Secretary Nicholas Brady called Saturday for a long-term commitment from rich nations to give massive financial assistance to the former Soviet republics, noting the existing mammoth Western aid package will provide relief only for this year.

Brady, in a meeting with Japanese Finance Minister Tsutomu Hata, also sought additional steps from Tokyo to rev up its flagging economy, raising the specter of protectionist sentiments, an official of Hata's ministry said.

Brady said the 24 billion dollar aid package the industrial world has already pledged to the former Soviet Union covers only this year, and the real problem is beyond 1992, the official said.

Western countries should consider assistance from a "long-term point of view," to those republics, who face severe economic problems while undergoing a painful metamorphosis, Brady was quoted as saying.

His call came just before the top financial officials of the Group of Seven (G-7) economic powers get together in Washington to discuss the issue of aid to Moscow.

In a working dinner Saturday, the G-7 officials discussed a detailed blueprint for such aid.

Brady's remarks apparently underscored the Japanese delegation's largest worry over the issue, the prospect of being forced to commit to additional assistance to the former Soviet republics, a Japanese diplomatic source in Washington said.

"The G-7 will have to discuss the aid for the years beyond 1992 at their summit meeting in Munich in July," the source said.

"Financial officials in Tokyo fear that they might be pinned down on aid for years to come," he said.

Japan, which has a long-standing dispute with Moscow over the sovereignty of four islands off Hokkaido, has been hardfisted about any large-scale financial assistance to Russia.

As the U.S. has become eager about such aid, Tokyo financial officials are concerned Japan might be isolated on the issue.

Although nobody can really fathom the real scope of assistance the 15 republics including Russia will need, some figures have already been mooted.

Michel Camdessus, managing director of the International Monetary Fund (IMF), said recently their finance requirements could easily amount to 140 billion dollars over the next four years or so.

He said the IMF and the World Bank will invest between 37 to 45 billion dollars in the former Soviet Union states during that period, leaving a gap of 100 billion dollars.

In response to Brady's remarks, Hata said Japan is willing to provide assistance to Russia and the other former republics making strenuous self-help efforts, despite the territorial dispute, the ministry official said.

On the sluggish world economy, Brady stressed the importance of boosting global economic growth, arguing each country should do what it can.

If the world economy remains weak, there is a possibility protectionism will raise its ugly head, Brady reportedly said, citing Japan's growing trade surplus.

Brady asked if there is anything Japan can do, according to the official, in an apparent suggestion Tokyo should take additional measures to spur its domestic demand.

Hata rejected the call, claiming Japan has already done enough, and more stimulus could ignite inflation.

He said the pump-priming economic package the government unveiled March 31 and the cut in the official discount rate the following day will give sufficient thrust to the Japanese economy.

These measures will show their effects in coming months, Hata was quoted as telling Brady.

U.S. Representative Hills Meets With Miyazawa

OW2704123192 Tokyo KYODO in English 1224 GMT 27 Apr 92

[Text] Tokyo, April 27 (KYODO)—U.S. Trade Representative Carla Hills urged Japan on Monday to expand imports in order to reduce its growing global trade surplus, Japanese officials said.

The officials said Hills, who attended quadrilateral trade talks last week in northern Japan, made the appeal during an afternoon meeting with Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa at the prime minister's official residence.

Hills and Miyazawa exchanged views on pending global and bilateral issues, including farm trade and Japan's trade surplus, the officials said.

They said Hills urged Japan to try to reduce its trade surplus and open its market wide to foreign firms, including semiconductor makers, to help stimulate domestic demand.

She expressed hope for early conclusion of the Uruguay Round of world trade negotiations, which are being held under the auspices of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT), they said.

Miyazawa explained Japan's agricultural policy aimed at continued self-sufficiency in rice production and detailed a package of economic measures to shore up the sagging domestic economy, including the front loading of expenditures for public works projects, the officials said.

They said Hills told Miyazawa she is aware of the political background preventing Japan from opening its rice market to imports.

Miyazawa promised to study what Japan can do in response to a U.S. request for eased restrictions on foreign lawyers doing business in Japan, the officials said.

Hills later conferred with Masami Tanabu, minister of agriculture, forestry and fisheries, on the Uruguay Round trade talks and reduction of import restrictions on farm products, the officials said.

Hills charged that Japan failed to comply with a draft agreement on farm trade prepared by GATT Director General Arthur Dunkel and urged Japan to replace rice import restrictions with tariffs, they said.

Tanabu reiterated Japan's claim that the draft is unfair to farm importing countries and called for negotiations to straighten out differences between exporting and importing nations, the officials said.

They said Hills challenged Japan's demand for multilateral talks to deal with Japan's restrictions on imports of skimmed milk, milk-based products and starch. GATT officials have ruled that the restrictions violate trade regulations.

Hills argued that the matter should be discussed in bilateral rather than multilateral negotiations, the officials said.

Hills also warned that Japan's waning appetite for foreign-made semiconductors could cause serious friction, citing the Japan-U.S. Semiconductor Agreement, in which Tokyo said it would try to expand their share in Japan.

Watanabe, however, argued that Japan is trying, saying the Ministry of International Trade and Industry (MITI) asked 200 domestic firms earlier this month to beef up imports of computer chips.

The bilateral agreement targets imported semiconductors to acquire more than 20 percent of the Japanese chip market by the end of 1992.

The slowdown in the Japanese economy, however, has reduced demand for chips. Analysts, therefore, expect fierce debate on the issue among Japanese and U.S. industry officials during the talks scheduled for June.

BOJ Cautious About U.S. Economic Recovery

OW2704102792 Tokyo KYODO in English 1017 GMT 27 Apr 92

[Text] Tokyo, April 27 (KYODO)—The Bank of Japan on Monday indicated a cautious outlook about the recovery of the U.S. economy due to unstable economic indicators.

In a report on overseas economic conditions, the central bank said the reasons for its cautious attitude include fluctuating corporate outlays for investment in plants and equipment and slow recovery of the employment situation.

The bank's view conflicted with growing optimism among some economists that the U.S. economy has stopped declining.

Watanabe Wants 'New' Relationship With Russia

OW2404154492 Tokyo KYODO in English 1533 GMT 24 Apr 92

[Text] Tokyo, April 24 KYODO—Foreign Minister Michio Watanabe said Friday that the long-standing territorial dispute between Japan and Russia over four islands can be solved by following "law and justice."

In an interview with the Russian daily KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA, Watanabe said he wants to build a new Russia-Japan relationship by overcoming obstacles hindering the conclusion of a peace treaty.

Watanabe is set to visit Moscow from next Wednesday.

He said that during his trip he aims to help pave the way for settlement of the territorial dispute when Russian President Boris Yeltsin visits Japan in September.

Referring to democratic reform efforts in the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS), Watanabe said, "it is a serious issue that can even change the framework of world peace. Japan wants to cooperate."

Plans To Raise Territorial Issue

OW2604082092 Tokyo KYODO in English 0744 GMT 26 Apr 92

[Text] Tokyo, April 26 KYODO—Foreign Minister Michio Watanabe will discuss Japan's territorial dispute with Russia during a visit to three countries in the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS) starting Wednesday [29 April].

The high point on the agenda during the visits will be a meeting with Russian President Boris Yeltsin on May 4.

Their discussions are expected to focus on the question of a return to Japan of four islands to the east of Hokkaido seized by the former Soviet Union at the end of World War II.

The islands are known in Japan as the northern territories and include the islands of Shikotan, Kunashiri, Etorofu and Habomai Islets.

A high-ranking official in the Foreign Ministry said the government hopes to persuade Yeltsin on the issue by "making good use of Watanabe."

The official said the government's strategy is to create the conditions for a recognition of the four islands as inherently Japanese territory. Russia has said it wants to solve the issue based on law and justice.

At bilateral talks in March, Russian Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev told Watanabe that Russia considers itself the successor to a 1956 Japan-Soviet declaration on the disputed islands as well as other international treaties entered into by the former Soviet Union.

Under the 1956 declaration, the Soviet Union said it would return Shikotan and the Habomai islets after concluding a peace treaty.

Japan and the Soviet Union have so far failed to sign a formal peace treaty.

This suggested a recognition of the inevitability of a return of the two islands, while permitting the commencement of unofficial negotiations over the return of the remaining larger islands.

But in a speech on April 18, Watanabe called for the immediate return of the Habomais and Shikotan and suggested that if Russia at least recognized Japan's sovereignty over Etorofu and Kunashiri, Japan would accept temporary Russian administration over the region.

The Russian paper IZVESTIYA followed this up Tuesday with the assertion that Russia is obliged to return only the Habomais and Shikotan.

One informed source familiar with Russo-Japanese relations said Yeltsin intends to seek to shelve the question of a return of Etorofu and Kunashiri through continued negotiations because he does not want to risk upsetting public opinion in Russia.

The source said the Russian leadership is claiming the islands cannot be sold for money, whereas Japan's cooperation is an important factor in the reform of Russia's economy.

"The perception is spreading that the four islands are a handicap," the source said.

Japan has since shown flexibility in interpreting its stated principle that politics and economics cannot be separated in any solution to the territorial dispute. It has contributed know-how and personnel toward democratization and economic reform in Russia.

But there has been no backing away from its stand that a solution to the territorial dispute is required before any large scale monetary assistance is forthcoming.

Japan is expected to make this same stand known to other participants at the July summit of leaders of the seven most industrialized nations (G-7) in Munich, Germany.

Watanabe told the House of Representatives Committee on Foreign Affairs on Wednesday that he hopes for support from other G-7 countries for a solution to the dispute.

Stresses Mutual Concessions

OW2704113992 Tokyo KYODO in English 1134 GMT 27 Apr 92

[Text] Tokyo, April 27 (KYODO)—Foreign Minister Michio Watanabe stressed the need Monday for mutual concessions from Japan and Russia to resolve the long-standing territorial dispute over four islands off eastern Hokkaido.

Watanabe said in an interview with KYODO News Service that he proposed a two-stage formula for a peaceful settlement of the territorial issue because he wants the Japanese people to understand that a realistic approach to the problem is required.

On April 18, Watanabe said that Japan would temporarily grant Russia administrative rights over the two most populous islands, Kunashiri and Etorofu, after the conclusion of a peace treaty, on condition that Russia confirms Japanese sovereignty over all four islands.

Japan has called for the simultaneous return of all the islands as a precondition to the conclusion of the peace treaty. Soviet troops seized the island at the end of World War II.

In the interview made prior to his visit to Russia in early May, Watanabe reiterated Japan's flexible stance on the dispute, saying that Tokyo is ready to discuss the timing, conditions, and ways to revert the islands to Japan if Russia agrees to grant Japan sovereignty over them.

Watanabe said he will visit Moscow to pave the way to make Russian President Boris Yeltsin's visit to Japan fruitful. The Russian president's visit to Tokyo in September is expected to make a breakthrough in the territorial dispute.

Asked about his meeting with Yeltsin in Moscow on May 4, Watanabe said he should state Japan's principles on the territorial problem because the talks will be the first territorial negotiations with the Russian president.

In Moscow, Watanabe will also confer with his Russian counterpart Andrei Kozyrev on May 3 and 4 for their second Japan-Russia regular ministerial meeting.

Prior to his visit to Moscow, the Japanese foreign minister will visit Kazakhstan and Kyrgyzstan after leaving Tokyo on Wednesday.

Hokkaido Governor Welcomes Russian Islanders

OW2404084792 Tokyo KYODO in English 0620 GMT 24 Apr 92

[Text] Sapporo, April 24 KYODO—Hokkaido Gov. Takahiro Yokomichi on Friday welcomed 19 Russian residents of disputed islands off northern Japan at the prefectural government office.

"I'm glad to greet guests who have turned over a page of history," said Yokomichi, adding that he welcomes the Russian group on behalf of Hokkaido residents.

M.I. Tereshko, head of the group and chairman of the Southern Kuril Regional Assembly, told Yokomichi that apart from "high-level" politics between Tokyo and Moscow, "we should deepen mutual citizen-level exchanges."

Tereshko asked the governor to join a group of Hokkaido residents originally from the islands who plan to visit the four islands May 11. Yokomichi, however, said it would be difficult for him to participate in the visit.

The visiting Russians, whose homes are on Shikotan, Kunashiri and Etorofu, include administrators of the islands, journalists, pensioners and fishery industry workers.

The islanders, who arrived at a Hokkaido port Wednesday, are the first residents of the islands to enter Japan without visas, based on an agreement reached last October between Japan and the former Soviet Union to expedite visa-free visits.

Japan has long called for the return of the three islands and the Habomai Group of islets, which the former Soviet Union seized at the end of World War II.

The Hokkaido government on Friday set up the Hokkaido-Russia Far East Medical Foundation in Sapporo to promote medical exchanges between Hokkaido and Russia.

The foundation was created with a 110 million yen donation mainly from Japanese citizens for a 4-year-old Russian boy, Konstantin Skoropyshniy, who suffered serious burns in an accident at his home in Sakhalin in August 1990.

Konstantin's parents offered the Hokkaido government 100 million yen to establish the foundation out of the 121.4 million yen that was donated to Konstantin.

After flying from Sakhalin to Sapporo, the boy received a series of skin grafts at a Sapporo hospital.

Russians on First Visa-Free Visit Return Home

OW2704090092 Tokyo KYODO in English 0837 GMT 27 Apr 92

[Text] Nemuro, Hokkaido, April 27 (KYODO)—A group of 19 Russian residents of disputed islands off northern Japan left for home Monday evening after wrapping up their six-day visa-free visit.

The Russian visitors, led by M.I. Tereshko, chairman of the Southern Kuril Regional Assembly, left Hanasaki Port in Nemuro, southeastern Hokkaido.

The group, which included administrators of the islands, journalists, pensioners and fishery industry workers from Shikotan, Kunashiri and Etorofu, arrived in Hokkaido on April 22.

The visitors were the first residents of the islands to enter Japan without visas. They met former Japanese residents of the islands in Sapporo and Nemuro during their stay in Japan.

Tereshko said at a press conference before leaving that the group was warmly welcomed everywhere and that the members all consider the trip a success.

He said Japan and Russia should "both make efforts to find a common solution" to the dispute over the islands.

Japan has long called for the return of the three islands and the Habomai Group of islets, which the former Soviet Union seized at the end of World War II.

The islanders were the first group to be invited under an agreement reached last October between Japan and the former Soviet Union to expedite visa-free visits.

Former Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev proposed the idea during his visit to Japan in April 1991.

Under the agreement, a group of 45 Hokkaido residents originally from the islands plan to visit them May 11, Japanese officials said.

Other former island residents and people promoting a movement for the islands' return to Japan are planning to visit in July and October, the officials said.

Hokkaido is also considering accepting a second group of Russians in July, they said.

Under the 1991 accord, the two governments agreed to issue identification certificates instead of visas for visitors traveling between Hokkaido and the four islands to promote mutual visits until the territorial dispute is settled.

Russia has adhered to the pact since the breakup of the Soviet Union in December.

Japan previously banned its nationals from visiting the islands on Soviet or Russian visas, saying such visas would amount to acknowledging foreign sovereignty over the islands.

Tokyo To Give Aid to Russian Nuclear Scientists

OW2704135592 Tokyo KYODO in English 1346 GMT 27 Apr 92

[Text] Tokyo, April 27 (KYODO)—Japan decided Monday to extend 20 million dollars in aid to help keep Russia's underpaid nuclear scientists at home, government officials said.

The government made the decision to extend financial support to the Moscow-based International Scientific and Technology Center, where Russian scientists will study peaceful development of nuclear energy, they said.

Foreign Minister Michio Watanabe will convey the decision to Russian President Boris Yeltsin and other Russian leaders during his trip to Moscow in early May.

The United States and the 12-member European Community (EC) have already pledged 25 million dollars each to manage the center scheduled to open as early as in June, the officials said.

Japan, the U.S., the EC and Russia will jointly manage the center which is being set up to alleviate concerns among Western industrial countries about a potential brain drain to developing countries which are allegedly pursuing nuclear weapons development programs.

CSFR's Havel, Baksay Continue Activities

Trade Agreement Signed 24 Apr

OW2404121092 Tokyo KYODO in English 1118 GMT 24 Apr 92

[Text] Tokyo, April 24 KYODO—Japan and Czechoslovakia on Friday signed a trade agreement in Tokyo.

Japanese Foreign Minister Michio Watanabe and Czechoslovakian Foreign Trade Minister Jozef Baksay put their signatures on the agreement.

The agreement will come into force when the existing treaty on commerce expires October 17.

Under the new pact, the nations will give most-favored-nation treatment to each other's products in accordance with the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade.

The new trade agreement was concluded after a proposal by Czechoslovakia because the existing commerce treaty has been found unrealistic since Czechoslovakia became a democracy and began shifting to a market economy.

Havel on Dissidence, Tolerance

OW2404122492 Tokyo KYODO in English 1134 GMT 24 Apr 92

[Text] Tokyo, April 24 KYODO—Czechoslovak President Vaclav Havel said Friday his conscience ordered him to face imprisonment by standing up to communist authorities in the dissident movement that eventually toppled the regime.

"Because I did not want to have a guilty conscience, I chose to abandon egotistic choices in my life and take actions that might incur negative consequences from the authorities," the dissident playwright-turned leader said at a news conference at the Japan National Press Club.

Havel was arrested three times and jailed for five years for criticizing the repressive regime of former President

Gustav Husak and demanding the release of prisoners of conscience from Czechoslovakian jails.

The 55-year-old president was also an active protester who took to streets to oppose the 1968 military intervention by Warsaw Pact troops that quashed the "Prague Spring" democratic regeneration movement.

Havel said he chose the life of a dissident "as I wanted to live a life that would not cause my conscience to bother me for not living in such a way."

He was one of the cofounders in 1977 of the "Charter 77" pro-democracy protest group and a member of the committee for the defense of the unjustly prosecuted, founded by Charter 77 signers.

Havel and other dissidents led the 1989 "velvet revolution" that ousted the communist government. That same year, he was elected president of Czechoslovakia.

After free parliamentary elections, the National Assembly reelected Havel to the presidency in July 1990 to a two-year term.

Havel told his Tokyo audience he has "not asserted that intellectuals can save this troubled world."

"However, I would like to underline again here that intellectuals carry the obligation and responsibility to take actions, assuming that their actions could do something to save society and the world," he said.

"Such an attitude has been an ethical imperative for me in a sense described by (Immanuel) Kant," he said, referring to the German philosopher's argument that human conscience sometimes orders a person to risk his or her life to take morally just actions.

On the proper approach to various international frictions and conflicts, Havel said nations must learn to act on the basis of mutual "tolerance" of countries that have followed different paths of historical development.

He said it is indispensable for nations to act with a "global sense of responsibility," which he described as an awareness of the need to defend the "common interests" of the international community rather than concentrate only on the interests of one's own country.

"Mankind shares a common fate," Havel said.

On relations with Japan, he said, "because Japan has expressed its willingness to cooperate with my country, we would like to deepen our exchanges with Japan."

He sought to dispel fears among some investors of political stability or ethnic conflict in his country, saying, "historically, Czechs and Slovaks have never waged a war with each other."

Miyazawa To Start Asia-Pacific Advisory Body

OW2704135092 Tokyo KYODO in English 1333 GMT 27 Apr 92

[Text] Tokyo, April 27 (KYODO)—Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa will start a private advisory body in May to study Japan's policy in the Asia-Pacific region after the end of the cold war, Chief Cabinet Secretary Koichi Kato said Monday.

The study group, called "A Gathering To Think About Asia-Pacific and Japan in the 21st Century," will be the first of its type since Miyazawa took power last November.

Political observers said Miyazawa aims to use the group to emphasize his expertise in foreign affairs prior to the House of Councillors elections scheduled in July.

Miyazawa has demonstrated his eagerness to use diplomacy in Asia by announcing the so-called "Miyazawa Doctrine" last June. It called for Japan's taking an active role in helping develop Asia.

He unveiled the doctrine before the election for the president of the ruling Liberal Democratic Party.

The study group will consist of 18 experts in economic and social fields, including Keio University President Tadao Ishikawa who will chair the panel.

The members also include Toyoo Gyohten, former vice minister for international affairs and now an advisor to the Bank of Tokyo, and Makoto Kuroda, former vice minister for international affairs at the Ministry of International Trade and Industry (MITI) and now a managing director of Mitsubishi Corp.

The advisory panel will hold its first meeting next month, and subsequent meetings are expected about once a month.

"The government expects the study group to make a policy proposal within this year," Kato said.

Tokyo Prepared To Boost Funding to Cambodia

OW2704111092 Tokyo KYODO in English 1105 GMT 27 Apr 92

[Text] Tokyo, April 27 (KYODO)—Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa said Monday Japan is prepared to increase its share of financial commitment to Cambodia to help reconstruct the country after the 13-year civil war which ended last October, government officials said.

Miyazawa made the remark in a meeting with Koshiro Ishida, chairman of the opposition party Komeito, in an attempt to pass a bill through the opposition-controlled House of Councillors to enable Self-Defense Forces (SDF) personnel to join U.N. peacekeeping operations.

Miyazawa also told Ishida that Japan is ready to increase its share of the cost of reconstructing Cambodia if the United Nations finds itself in financial difficulties, the officials said.

Japan, the United States, Russia, Germany, France, Britain and other countries have promised to provide a total of 2 billion dollars for the U.N. Transitional Authority in Cambodia (UNTAC), which is deploying a 22,000-member U.N. force to maintain peace and order there and prepare for a general election scheduled for 1993.

Japan's current share of the fund for Cambodia amounts to 12.5 percent of the 2 billion dollars.

SDPJ's Tanabe on Relations With ROK, DPRK

SK2504091792 Seoul CHUNGANG ILBO in Korean 24 Apr 92 p 5

[Interview with Makoto Tanabe, chairman of the Socialist Democratic Party of Japan, by correspondent Yi Sok-ku at the party headquarters in Tokyo on 23 April]

[Excerpts] [Yi Sok-ku] The Socialist Democratic Party of Japan [SDPJ] asserts that the nuclear issue has nothing to do with the establishment of diplomatic relations between North Korea and Japan. Do you think that the Japanese people agree with that? What is your view on the issue of North Korea's nuclear inspection?

[Tanabe] Strictly speaking, the nuclear issue is not an issue between Japan and North Korea. It is an issue that should be settled between North Korea and the International Atomic Energy Agency. Japan, however, is the first country on earth ever to suffer from atomic bombs, and both the Japanese people and the SDPJ are sensitive to nuclear weapons. I have always clearly maintained that the nuclear issue should be confronted. During my recent visit to North Korea, I was assured by the North Korean authorities that they will have their nuclear facilities inspected as soon as possible. I trust them. However, I am watching them attentively, because you will not know until you see results.

[Yi] When do you think North Korean-Japanese relations will be normalized?

[Tanabe] As negotiations are between the governments, I do not know. But I hope they will be normalized at an early date. [passage omitted]

[Yi] In what way do you think reunification between the South and North should be realized? Don't you think that liberal democracy and market economy are the inevitable course of history?

[Tanabe] The SDPJ's basic policy is to maintain and develop the market economy based on democracy. Nevertheless, it is impossible to force this on other countries. The South and North must be reunified without fail, but dialogue must be the way to realize it.

[Yi] The South and North have not been able to hold a summit meeting yet. Whom do you think is to blame?

[Tanabe] I do not know. Aren't both sides to blame?

[Yi] I know that you went to Pyongyang for the celebration of President Kim Il-song's 80th birthday last 15 April. Some people wonder if it is necessary for your party to send a delegation to offer congratulation on an individual's birthday.

[Tanabe] Before our departure, I explained why we had planned the visit. It was not merely for the purpose of offering congratulations to President Kim Il-song on his birthday. We have made a great deal of effort on the nuclear issue and on persuading the North Korean authorities to allow the Japanese wives of Korean compatriots who have returned home to visit their families in Japan.

[Yi] What was your impression of the gymnastic show you saw in North Korea? Also, what do you think of the personality cult built around President Kim Il-song and about human rights in North Korea?

[Tanabe] Frankly speaking, no other country does that kind of thing. It is a different matter whether I like it or not. I think that it is possible only through considerable regimentation.

Personally, I find it unpalatable. President Kim has ruled North Korea for the past 47 years. Criticizing this is a different matter. I believe that a person who has been able to rule a country for nearly half a century has something about him that deserves respect. Nonetheless, North Korea has a system that is different from our's. We hope that human rights will be respected in all countries. When the Tiananmen incident occurred in 1989, we expressed our hope that no human lives would be hurt. [passage omitted]

[Yi] In a special introductory article to a booklet entitled "President Kim Il-song," you lauded Kim Il-song by saying that North Korea fought the U.S. forces, the world's strongest, during the Korean war and thoroughly smashed the United States' ambitions.

[Tanabe] I cannot say what caused the Korean war. In no sense does the U.S. intervention in the war under the name of the United Nations deserve praise. The Korean peninsula question is up to the Korean people to decide. [passage omitted]

[Yi] Do you plan to visit the ROK? The Korean people want the SDPJ to be critical of North Korea as it was of the way the ROK treated human rights and its dictatorial rule in the past.

[Tanabe] I hope that my visit to the ROK will be realized at an early date. The SDPJ wants to exchange with the South and North on an equal footing. I believe, however, that it is better to avoid directly criticizing any one country's system. From our point of view, nothing is more desirable than a political and economic system built on democracy. I speak of this openly wherever I go.

I did say this while I was in North Korea. It is different to say that the political system in North Korea is unjust.

[Yi] What do you think has kept you from realizing a plan for a visit to the ROK?

[Tanabe] I have already asked for a visa to Korea. My fellow SDPJ lawmakers have been to Korea already. The SDPJ's policy toward the Korean peninsula has changed and now it recognizes both sides. We also recognize the basic treaty between Korea and Japan. Only we do not recognize the ROK as the one and only legitimate government on the Korean peninsula. We recognize the existence of both the South and North. During my visit to North Korea in 1985, I made it clear to President Kim that we will exchange with the ROK.

Tokyo Asks for Early Transfer of Power in Burma

OW2704112492 Tokyo KYODO in English 1118 GMT 27 Apr 92

[Text] Tokyo, April 27 (KYODO)—Japan called on Myanmar's [Burma's] ruling military junta Monday to hand over power to a democratically elected government in the near future.

Sakutaro Tanio, director general of the Foreign Ministry's Asian Affairs Bureau, made the request in a meeting with Myanmar's Ambassador to Japan Thein Han at the ministry.

Tanino told the ambassador that Japan rates highly announcements made late last week by Myanmar's Ruling State Law and Order Restoration Council (SLORC), Foreign Ministry officials said.

After SLORC Chairman Gen. Saw Maung, citing health reasons, turned over control to Gen. Than Shwe last Thursday, the council has made a series of announcements, including a timetable for the holding of a national convention, permission for Nobel Peace Prize Winner Aung San Suu Kyi to receive visits by her family, and the release of some of Myanmar's political prisoners.

Aung San Suu Kyi has been under house arrest after her National League for Democracy won a landslide victory in the May 1990 general elections.

In response to Tanino, Thein said the new chairman is expected to make more efforts to improve domestic situations since he has already dealt with it realistically since his appointment as Myanmar's top leader.

Thein also said he will convey the Japanese request to the Myanmar Government, the Japanese officials said.

Leaders' Trips, 'Golden Week' Activities Viewed

OW2404103292 Tokyo KYODO in English 0932 GMT 24 Apr 92

[Excerpts] Tokyo, April 24 KYODO—While most Japanese are off work enjoying "Golden Week," a string of national holidays from late April to early May, Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa and many other political leaders will be on official trips away from Japan.

Finance Minister Tsutomu Hata is the first among key cabinet ministers, executives and senior members of the ruling Liberal Democratic Party (LDP), and parliamentary leaders leaving Tokyo.

He will depart Saturday, April 25, to attend a series of meetings of the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and World Bank in Washington and later visit Germany.

Former LDP Secretary General Keizo Obuchi, a close aide to Noboru Takeshita, a former prime minister and powerful political figure, is next, leaving Sunday, April 26, for China.

Obuchi is visiting Beijing against the background of a heated domestic debate on whether Emperor Akihito should make a state visit to China this year to mark the 20th anniversary of the normalization of bilateral relations. Takeshita himself will visit China the week after next.

Next week's highlight is Miyazawa's visit to France and Germany, starting Tuesday, April 28, and ending Saturday, May 2, for talks with President Francois Mitterrand and Chancellor Helmut Kohl.

Official sources said Miyazawa will seek their understanding of Japan's call for Russia to return four islands off Hokkaido seized by the Soviet Red Army at the end of World War II.

The territorial issue has been the main stumbling block to the full normalization of relations between the two countries and has prevented the signing of a peace treaty.

Miyazawa will also ask Mitterrand and Kohl to support Japan's move to gain observer status at the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe (CSCE), the sources said.

The prime minister, seeking a more positive Japanese role in world affairs, wants to see Japan contributing not only in economic terms but also in the political sphere by strengthening relations with the 51-member CSCE, the sources added.

The day after Miyazawa's departure, Foreign Minister Michio Watanabe, concurrently the deputy prime minister, leaves for Moscow on a six-day trip in which he will visit Russia and possibly other members of the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS).

Watanabe, tipped as the most likely successor to Miyazawa, is scheduled to confer with Russian President Boris Yeltsin, who is to visit Japan this fall, and Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev.

Official sources said Watanabe will probably propose a military officer exchange program as a confidence-building measure between the two countries.

Other Japanese leaders making overseas trips include LDP Secretary General Tamisuke Watanuki, Sohei Miyashita, state minister in charge of the Defense Agency, both to Europe, and former Prime Minister Yasuhiro Nakasone to Malaysia. [passage omitted on leisure pursuits undertaken by people during so-called Golden Week]

On Tuesday, a special committee of the House of Councillors will resume deliberations—as agreed by the ruling LDP and the No. 1 opposition Social Democratic Party—on a government-sponsored bill to cooperate with the United Nations in its peacekeeping operations. The committee will immediately go into recess, however, and full-scale deliberations will not start until after Golden Week.

The government will start implementing a five-day workweek for civil servants Saturday, May 2, requiring them to work 40 hours a week, or two hours less than at present. Prefectural and municipal governments as well as more private enterprises are expected to follow suit.

Chief Cabinet Secretary Koichi Kato says the five-day workweek will "bring about a major change in the way of life" in Japan, long labeled by foreign countries as a land of workaholics.

The new workweek system is expected to bolster domestic demand and help in the recovery from the bursting of the "bubble economy," as well as helping reduce the huge external trade surplus for which Japan is under fire from its trading partners overseas.

Next week will also see the release of important economic statistics—the February diffusion index and March industrial production index both on Tuesday, March housing starts on Thursday, and the March national consumer price index and the April consumer price index for the Tokyo metropolitan area on Friday.

SDP Member Explains Party's Peacekeeping Bill

OW2704075992 Tokyo KYODO in English 0739 GMT 27 Apr 92

[Text] Tokyo, April 27 (KYODO)—Social Democratic Party (SDP) House of Councillors member Tetsu Noda explained Monday about the largest opposition party's counter-peacekeeping bill at a plenary session of the upper house.

Noda, in response to Japanese Communist Party member Haruko Yoshikawa, said the SDP's plan envisages Japan dispatching contingents of civilians to help in U.N. peacekeeping operations.

The senior SDP Diet member said the government's policy of allowing Self-Defense Forces (SDF) personnel to join U.N. peacekeeping missions violates the ideal of the war-renouncing Constitution.

He also said the bill is causing concern among other Asian peoples, who suffered from the atrocities committed by the Japanese military before and during World War II.

In addition, Noda said SDF personnel would be under the control and command of the United Nations if they participated in such missions, and that this would violate the constitutional ban on the right to a collective security system.

The SDP has insisted on the participation of Japan in nonmilitary operations in U.N. missions in accordance with the Japanese Constitution.

While Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa said the government is ready to amend part of a U.N. peacekeeping cooperation bill which will pave the way for the dispatch of SDF personnel overseas.

Miyazawa, replying to questions from Rengo member Tetsuo Inoue at a House of Councillor's plenary session, said, "The government must respect the principle of the separation of the administrative, legislative and judicial branches of Japan if parliament hopes to revise the bill."

Miyazawa said SDF personnel should participate in U.N. peacekeeping operations to protect civilians in war-torn countries where U.N. "blue helmet" soldiers are deployed.

The government intends to pass the peacekeeping operation bill at the current ordinary session of the opposition-controlled upper house, scheduled to end late next June, government sources said. The House of Representatives passed the bill last December.

Middle-of-the-road opposition parties—Komeito and the Democratic Socialist Party (DSP)—have agreed in principle on the participation of Japan in U.N. peacekeeping operations.

But despite their combined majority in the 252-member upper house, the ruling Liberal Democratic Party (LDP), Komeito and the DSP all interpret the Constitution differently on this issue.

DSP Chief at Odds With Komeito on SDF Bill

OW2504124892 Tokyo KYODO in English 1226 GMT 25 Apr 92

[Text] Oita, April 25 KYODO—The chairman of the Democratic Socialist Party (DSP) said Saturday his party will push for a bill making Diet approval mandatory should Japan dispatch its Self-Defense Forces (SDF) personnel on UN peacekeeping missions overseas.

DSP chairman Keigo Ouchi also said if SDF personnel are sent abroad they should be under the command of the UN secretary general.

The government has insisted that it should maintain the right to command.

Ouchi said his talks with Komeito leaders could be postponed unless Komeito accepts the two DSP conditions, which have already been refused by Komeito Secretary General Yuichi Ichikawa.

He said if Ichikawa spoke officially for Komeito it would be almost impossible for the two parties to find any common ground on the peacekeeping bill.

The DSP chairman also said if Komeito clings to its own stance, the DSP might seek an alliance with the ruling Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) and Rengo Sangiin, an affiliate of Japan's largest labor organization Rengo, to secure a majority in the House of Councillors in the July election.

Responding to Ichikawa's statement that the resulting Diet majority could allow any decision, Ouchi said the alliance would be a denial of democracy and Komeito would be hard-pressed to prove that it is a democratic party.

He also denounced Ichikawa for denying the UN right to command Japanese contingents, charging that it is intentional negligence of UN sponsored peacekeeping activities.

Ouchi said Ichikawa's remark would ruin DSP's efforts to reach a happy compromise with Komeito by agreeing to a Komeito-proposed "temporary freeze" on the dispatch of SDF personnel abroad.

Komeito has insisted on having such a provision in the final bill so that Japan will not have to join armed UN peacekeeping forces for the time being.

The government-proposed bill, which cleared the LDP-dominated House of Representatives last December, is pending in the opposition-controlled upper house. Deliberations on the proposal will resume at the upper house special committee on UN peacekeeping operations Tuesday.

LDP Secretary General Tamisuke Watanuki said in Sapporo that the LDP will cooperate with Komeito and the DSP in an effort to get the bill passed in the current Diet session.

He said the three parties began working together on the enactment of the bill originally and he envisages an eventual compromise between the two centrist opposition forces.

Watanuki said the two parties are only in the process of expressing their views on the peacekeeping bill.

Hints at Compromise on SDF Bill

OW2704143792 Tokyo KYODO in English 1424 GMT 27 Apr 92

[Text] Tokyo, April 27 (KYODO)—Keigo Ouchi, chairman of the Democratic Socialist Party (DSP), the fourth-ranked opposition party, hinted Monday at a possibility that a compromise would be reached between the DSP and Komeito, the second-largest opposition group, over the government-proposed United Nations peacekeeping Cooperation Bill.

In an interview with KYODO News Service in the Diet building, Ouchi said that the DSP and Komeito would be able to clear obstacles to the compromise in view of the two parties' stances on the bill.

The possible compromise between the centrist opposition parties would pave the way for the passage of the bill by the opposition-controlled House of the Councillors.

The bill, which cleared the House of Representatives last December with the backing of the ruling Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) and Komeito, is aimed at sending Self-Defense Forces (SDF) abroad to join U.N. peacekeeping operations.

Earlier in the day, the upper house started a full-scale debate on the government-sponsored bill and one submitted by the Social Democratic Party (SDP), the No. 1 opposition party.

The SDP bill calls for the establishment of an International Cooperation Corps separate from the SDF and limits its activities only to nonmilitary fields.

The DSP demands that Japanese peacekeepers should be put under U.N. command once the troops join the U.N. peacekeeping troops. It also insists that prior Diet approval is needed each time the government dispatches the SDF personnel to U.N. peacekeeping operations.

Komeito contends that part of the bill concerning SDF participation in the U.N. peacekeeping forces be frozen because national consensus has not been reached on the matter. It also opposes the idea of placing the SDF under U.N. command.

In a television interview on Sunday, Komeito Secretary General Yuichi Ichikawa showed understanding of the DSP policy of seeking Diet approval prior to the overseas dispatch of SDF personnel.

Ichikawa also showed a flexible stance on the issue of U.N. command over the Japanese peacekeepers.

Labor Urged To Support SDF Constitutionality

OW2404141992 Tokyo KYODO in English 1411 GMT 24 Apr 92

[Text] Tokyo, April 24 KYODO—Labor leader Akira Yamagishi proposed Friday that the country's biggest labor organization endorse the Self-Defense Forces (SDF).

Yamagishi, head of the 8 million-strong Japanese trade union confederation (Rengo), told a Tokyo meeting the country's Constitution provides the state with the right to defend itself.

Japan's No. 1 opposition party, the Social Democratic Party, to which Rengo provides the main base of support, has long opposed the existence of the SDF, which it says runs counter to the Constitution.

Article 9 of the Constitution renounces the threat or use of force as a means of settling international disputes and to achieve that aim, "land, sea, and air forces, as well as other war potential, will never be maintained."

Yamagishi said, "I hope Rengo will take a clear position that Article 9 of the Constitution approves of the nation's right to self defense. Rengo will uphold (the legitimacy of) the Self-Defense Forces."

Interpretation of Article 9 has long stirred up controversy among conservative and opposition parties about the constitutionality of the SDF, even if its mission is limited to self-defense.

Yamagishi's comments came three weeks before three top executives of the union will seek to adopt a basic policy framework on defense and foreign policies during a meeting set for May 15 and 16.

"It is sufficient to consider shrinking or maintaining the Self-Defense Forces, while keeping our basic emphasis on disarmament efforts," he said.

Rengo is in the process of formulating policy following the defeat of ruling Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) candidates by its candidates in two successive by-elections earlier this year amid a series of scandals involving LDP politicians.

Rengo's successive victories in the Nara and Miyagi by-elections for House of Councillors seats startled the political community prior to a July national vote to elect half the upper house's 252 seats.

Political analysts said Yamagishi's approach to the sensitive SDF issue may spark dissent from some unionists inside the organization, and stir opposition at the upcoming executive meeting.

Yamagishi said Rengo should not retreat from the position that three conditions must be observed before throwing its support behind the SDF.

The conditions are keeping civilian control over the forces, limiting the SDF's mission to national defense, and living up to the three principles of not possessing, manufacturing, nor allowing nuclear weapons on Japanese territory, he said.

Poll Finds 66% Support Participation in PKO

OW2504122592 Tokyo NHK General Television Network in Japanese 1000 GMT 25 Apr 92

[Text] An NHK poll shows that about half of the Japanese public feel that international contributions by the Self-Defense Forces [SDF] should be limited to unarmed activities, such as clean-up work after disasters and medical relief.

NHK polled 3,600 people 16 years of age and older, on 7 and 8 March, on issues related to the Constitution, and obtained responses from 2,522 people, or about 70 percent of the pollees.

When asked if Japan should send personnel overseas in addition to money and relief goods as part of an international contribution, 66 percent of respondents were in favor of the dispatch, and 23 percent were opposed. The poll thus showed two out of three Japanese recognize the necessity of sending personnel overseas.

When asked about what kind of activities the SDF should participate in, 46 percent of the respondents answered that they should be limited to unarmed activities such as clean-up work after disasters or medical relief; 15 percent answered that they should participate in cease-fire monitoring operations equipped only with small arms for self-protection; 11 percent said that they should participate in armed peacekeeping forces; another 10 percent said they should be allowed to take part in multinational forces such as those deployed during the Gulf war; and 14 percent said that only civilians, not SDF personnel, should be sent overseas. The survey results thus indicate that about half of the pollees want the SDF to play a role in unarmed activities.

When asked if the SDF is constitutional, 48 percent were affirmative, 18 percent were negative, and 28 percent were undecided.

When asked about their image of the SDF, 32 percent said that they regarded it as an organization for relief activities and reconstruction in times of disaster; 28 percent said that the SDF should maintain public suecurity and the safety of the nation; and 26 percent said that the SDF should be capable of guarding national security and deterring aggression.

On the scale and budget of the SDF, 53 percent of the respondents said that the current level should be maintained, 33 percent said that they should be reduced, while 4 percent supported an increase.

On the question of the best policy to maintain security in Japan, 54 percent agreed that Japan should sustain a certain level of defense capability and continue to cooperate with the United States, but 22 percent supported an unarmed and neutral position for Japan.

Parties on Barring Bribe-Takers From Elections

OW2404153292 Tokyo KYODO in English 1524 GMT 24 Apr 92

[Text] Tokyo, April 24 KYODO—Four noncommunist political parties agreed Friday to enact a bill banning legislators given suspended prison sentences for bribe-taking from running in reelection, party officials said.

The measure would repeal their right to run for reelection while on probation, tightening current laws that bar only legislators convicted of buying votes from running again.

The ruling Liberal Democratic Party, the Social Democratic Party, Komeito and the Democratic Socialist Party agreed on the proposed bill, the officials said.

The agreement also calls for applying the tougher sanctions to legislators at both national and local assemblies, as well as the heads of local autonomous bodies, the officials said.

But the four parties failed to agree on whether lawmakers jailed for bribe-taking should be barred from seeking office after their sentences expire, they said.

The agreement came after the Kyowa bribery scandal, allegedly implicating a close ally of Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa, cost the ruling party two parliamentary seats in successive House of Councillors by-elections in constituencies seen as conservative strongholds.

In the 1976 Lockheed payoff scandal, the Tokyo high court convicted former Prime Minister Kakuei Tanaka of taking 500 million yen in bribes from Lockheed Corp. of the United States.

Tanaka appealed to the Supreme Court, which has not yet ruled on his case. Nonetheless, his Niigata Prefecture constituents returned him to office.

The four noncommunist parties also failed to narrow their differences over whether the Diet should give an existing parliamentary committee the authority to recommend the resignation of legislators found guilty of taking bribes, the officials said.

The so-called Political Ethics Examination Committee, formed after the Lockheed scandal, has never met.

The four parties are debating whether the Diet should upgrade the status of the panel to that of a standing parliamentary committee, they said.

Businessman Enters Guilty Plea in Kyowa Scandal

OW2404114792 Tokyo KYODO in English 1116 GMT 24 Apr 92

[Text] Tokyo, April 24 KYODO—A former executive of a defunct business company Friday entered a guilty plea in a major bribery scandal that rocked the government of Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa and the ruling Liberal Democratic Party earlier this year.

Goro Moriguchi, former vice president of Kyowa Co., told the Tokyo District Court that there is "nothing incorrect" about the prosecution's indictment charging that he paid 90 million yen in bribes to former State Minister Fumio Abe, a one-time close political ally of Miyazawa.

Moriguchi entered the plea at the opening session of his trial.

Abe, who the prosecution say accepted the 90 million yen bribe from Moriguchi, is due to show up in a separate session on June 19 at the same court.

Following the arrest of Abe in January, the LDP suffered two consecutive losses in by-elections to the House of Councillors in Nara and Miyagi Prefectures, suggesting mounting distrust in the LDP and Miyazawa's running of state affairs.

Moriguchi, 49, was indicted February 1 on charges of sending the bribe to Abe, former director general of the Hokkaido and Okinawa Development Agencies, in return for favors for the now-bankrupt steel frame manufacturer Kyowa.

He was freed March 3 on a 200 million yen bond, eight months after being arrested on suspicion of fraud in a separate case.

Moriguchi's admission to the charges before the court is expected to plunge Abe, the key political figure in the Kyowa payoff scandal, into a difficult situation in his own upcoming trial.

If Abe is convicted, he faces a maximum of seven years in prison.

Abe was arrested on January 13 for allegedly having accepted bribes from Moriguchi on six occasions between August 1989 and January 1990.

He was also indicted on February 1 but was released on February 4 on a bail of 50 million yen.

Abe, 69, was a State Minister in the Cabinet of former Prime Minister Toshiki Kaifu from August 1989 to February 1990.

A veteran member of the House of Representatives, Abe was secretary general of the Liberal Democratic Party's second-largest faction, led by Miyazawa, from last April to December.

Upon his arrest, he left both the Miyazawa faction and the governing party.

Prosecutors said in an opening statement that Moriguchi had called on Abe to supply privileged information about construction of an expressway in Hokkaido while Abe as state minister headed the Hokkaido and Okinawa Development Agencies.

He was also suspected of asking Abe to assist Kyowa to participate in the construction of a multipurpose, all-weather stadium, the White Dome, and to obtain low-interest loans from the governmental Hokkaido-Tohoku Development Corp., the prosecutors said.

Moriguchi reportedly gave Abe a total of 530 million yen, including the 90 million yen bribe.

In hopes of an early conclusion of his trial, Moriguchi is being tried separately from Abe. Bribers and bribetakers are usually tried together.

Moriguchi is also being tried on a separate charge of defrauding two trading houses of 3.65 billion yen in 1990 by fabricating contract documents for fictitious steel frame orders in collusion with a senior official of Marubeni Corp., a major trading company.

He is believed to have solicited Abe's help in May 1989 in order to conceal the fraud.

Automobile Industry Reports Increase in Exports

OW2704091892 Tokyo KYODO in English 0902 GMT 27 Apr 92

[Text] Tokyo, April 27 (KYODO)—Japan's exports of four-wheel drive vehicles in March totaled 530,188, up 4.9 percent over a year earlier and up 0.9 percent over the preceding month, the automobile industry reported Monday.

The Japan Automobile Manufacturers' Association said it was the third straight month that Japan's motor vehicle exports had exceeded the year-before level.

The association said passenger cars accounted for 414,581, up 7.4 percent over a year earlier and up 0.2 percent over the previous month.

Exports of trucks totaled 109,993 vehicles, down 4.1 percent from the year before but up 3.8 percent over the preceding month, the association said.

It said buses accounted for 5,614, up 21.7 percent over a year earlier and up 5.0 percent over the previous month.

The association said exports of vehicles and parts totaled 7,293.11 million dollars in value, up 12.1 percent over a year earlier and up 5.0 percent over the previous month.

The association said vehicle exports to the United States decreased from a year earlier for the third straight month but passenger car exports picked up for the first time in three months.

Exports to the European Community posted the first year-on-year fall in three months but passenger car shipments declined for the second straight month, the association said.

The association said motorcycle exports totaled 175,789 vehicles, up 17.6 percent over a year earlier and up 20.6 percent over the previous month.

Exports of motorcycles and parts totaled 450.93 million dollars, up 16.0 percent over the year before and up 2.7 percent over the preceding month, the association said.

It said motor vehicle exports in fiscal 1991, which ended last March 31, gained a slight 0.1 percent over a year earlier to 5,829,485 vehicles, the second straight year-on-year rise following an identical 0.1 percent increase in fiscal 1990.

Passenger cars accounted for 4,517,823 vehicles, up 0.8 percent, while trucks were down 3.4 percent at 1,253,735 vehicles, marking the sixth straight yearly fall, the association said.

Exports to the United States decreased for the fifth straight year, amounting to 2,022,757 vehicles, down 8.1 percent, the association said.

It said passenger cars accounted for 1,730,631 vehicles, down 6.4 percent from a year earlier, posting the fifth straight year-on-year fall.

The volume was about 570,000 vehicles short of the voluntary restraint limit set at 2.3 million vehicles, the association said.

Sales to Asia fell for the first time in five years, totaling 556,730 vehicles, down 4.7 percent from a year earlier, due largely to the severe market environment, the association said.

Exports to Europe fell back for the first time since 1987, totaling 1,729,146 vehicles, down 2.5 percent, it said. Sales to the European Community tumbled 2.6 percent to 1,275,071 vehicles.

Sales to Latin America surged 32.8 percent to 299,570 vehicles, posting the second straight yearly rise, the association said.

Tokyo To Double Funding for Scientific Research

OW2404055592 Tokyo KYODO in English 0447 GMT 24 Apr 92

[Text] Tokyo, April 24 KYODO—The government decided in a cabinet meeting Friday to strengthen Japan's basic research in science and technology with plans to double the nation's investment in research and development.

The government agreed on an outline of policies for science and technology research that includes calls for research that will contribute to the resolution of environmental problems and be used by all societies and cultures.

The government agreed to adhere to the contents of a January report by the Council for Science and Technology, but decided to double its planned 2 trillion yen investment in research and development. It also called for policies to promote the strengthening of fundamental scientific research.

Over the next 10 years, the government's broad outline of science and technology policies will seek to contribute to the resolution of common human problems involving the global environment and the disparity of wealth between developed and developing nations.

The government said it also wants to see an accumulation of scientific and technological knowledge that can be utilized by all people, and research to help Japan maintain its own quality of life in the face of the nation's aging population.

To realize these objectives, the government urged for a doubling of its investment in research and development as soon as possible. It did not, however, specify a timetable or method for achieving the increase.

While the U.S. Government funds about half of all American research and development, the Japanese Government pays for less than 20 percent of all scientific and technological research in Japan.

Overseas observers consider the Japanese Government budget to be low profile compared with the nation's strong private sector desire for research and development.

The government said that realizing government objectives will also mean improving university and national research facilities which have grown old and decrepit over the years.

It has been an urgent task for Japan to correct the imbalance in exchanges with Western researchers and raise the currently low research level by rapidly strengthening basic scientific investigations.

To accomplish these goals, the government outline includes distribution of money and human resources to the best institutes, the creation of institutions that would be the nucleus of Japan's research and development, and the promotion of research exchanges both domestically and internationally.

The government also stressed that Japan has a responsibility to give technological assistance to developing nations in Asia and the republics of the now defunct Soviet Union, which fear that many of their best scientists may take offers from other nations better able to pay for their services.

Environment Group Urges End to Mass Consumption

OW2404142392 Tokyo KYODO in English 1413 GMT 24 Apr 92

[Text] Tokyo, April 24 KYODO—The world must shift from mass production and consumption to more environment-friendly systems, the body responsible for Japan's assistance to the June 3-14 Earth Summit in Brazil said in a statement Friday.

The Japanese committee on the global environment issued the statement in advance of the summit, formally known as the United Nations Conference on the Environment and Development.

The committee comprises government and private individuals and is headed by Gaishi Hiraiwa, chairman of the Federation of Economic Organizations (Keidanren).

The committee's statement said that integrating the two themes of environment and development will require an urgent strengthening of the United Nations and increased emphasis on population control.

It also recommended stepped-up international cooperation to increase safety measures in nuclear power production, as well as limiting developed countries' consumption of fossil fuels to prevent global warming.

The statement called on corporations to take account of the environment in all stages of production, distribution and technological development.

North Korea

Parade Marks 60th Anniversary of People's Army

SK2504041092 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0359 GMT 25 Apr 92

[Text] Pyongyang April 25 (KCNA)—A grand parade was held here to celebrate the 60th founding anniversary of the heroic Korean People's Army [KPA].

The great leader President Kim Il-song and the dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il appeared on the platform in company with foreign heads of state.

That moment, a storm of cheers of "hurrah" burst forth, thousands of balloons were let fly into the sky and hundreds of shells of firecrackers were fired.

When the start of the parade was declared, the national anthem was played and a salute of 21 guns boomed.

There was a grand parade of anti-Japanese revolutionary fighters, veterans of the fatherland liberation war, columns of the three services of the Korean People's Army, the Korean People's Security Forces, the Worker-Peasant Red Guards, the Young Red Guards and powerful mechanized units.

The parade was watched by senior party and government officials, the members of foreign military delegations, officials of the General Association of Korean Residents in Japan and the South Korean National Democratic Front, foreign diplomatic envoys and foreign guests in Korea.

A hundred thousand citizens have turned out on to the streets of the capital city and warmly welcomed the paraders, throwing colored tapes and confetti on them and raising cheers.

O Chin-u Meets Foreign Military Leaders

SK2704054592 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0514 GMT 27 Apr 92

[All names as received]

[Text] Pyongyang April 27 (KCNA)—Minister of Peoples' Armed Forces O Chin-u Sunday met and had friendly talks separately with the military delegation of the Armed Forces of Egypt led by Muhammad Abd-al-Onim Hasan Muhn, first vice minister of national defence, the Thai military delegation led by Han Skulpanich, deputy commander of the Army of the Kingdom of Thailand, the delegation of the Ministry of Defence of Peru led by General Inspector of the Army Roberto Aldana Vazques and the Sudanese military delegation led by State Minister for defence Osman Mohamed al-Hasan to the celebrations of the 60th founding anniversary of the Korean People's Army.

O Chin-u Speaks at Parade

SK2504081592 Pyongyang Korean Central Broadcasting Network in Korean 0520 GMT 25 Apr 92

[Speech by O Chin-u, minister of DPRK People's Armed Forces, at a military parade on the 60th anniversary of the founding of the Korean People's Army at Kim Il-song Plaza in Pyongyang on 25 April—recorded]

[Text] Comrade officers and men of the three services of the Korean People's Army [KPA] and the People's Security Forces, old fighters of the anti-Japanese revolutionary war, veterans of the Fatherland Liberation War, members of the Worker-Peasant Red Militia, members of the Red Youth Guards, working people of the entire country, citizens of Pyongyang, and respected foreign comrades and friends:

Today, amid great glory and revolutionary (?aspiration) all over the country, we grandly mark the 60th anniversary of the founding of the heroic KPA, our party's revolutionary armed forces, with much pride and self-respect.

It is the greatest glory and happiness for us, the officers and men of the KPA and the people, to have this military parade to commemorate the 60th anniversary of the founding of the KPA with the presence of the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song, who has been elected DPRK generalissimo for his immortal and brilliant achievement of strengthening and developing our People's Army into invincible revolutionary armed forces and leading it along the single road of victory and exploits.

On the occasion of the 60th anniversary of the founding of the KPA, the felicitous national day of our party and people, I, on the authority and in the name of the Political Bureau of the Central Committee of the Workers Party of Korea [WPK] and in the name of the party Central Military Commission, wholeheartedly congratulate the old anti-Japanese fighters, the veterans of the fatherland liberation war, the People's Army units, the soldiers of the People's Security Forces, the members of the Red Worker-Peasant Militia, members of the Youth Red Guard, and the working people across the country, who have devotedly struggled for the liberation of the fatherland, for the freedom and independence of the people, and for the party and the revolution.

Under the leadership of the party and the leader, our People's Army has traversed the militant road full of glory and have effected the immortal and brilliant achievements in our country's history.

Upholding the independent banner against imperialists, our revolutionary armed forces heroically struggled over a long period of time. By doing so, they achieved the liberation of the fatherland and have gloriously defended the gains of the revolution. Thanks to our revolutionary armed forces, the victorious advance of the chuche revolutionary cause has been firmly guaranteed.

The 60 years traversed by our revolutionary armed forces have been an ever-victorious 60 years. The masses-oriented heroism and militant exploits, which the People's Army's soldiers have displayed, will always be brilliant in our party's history.

Our People's Army will also faithfully uphold the respected and beloved supreme commander's leadership in the future. It will firmly defend the party, the leader, the fatherland, and the people. By doing so, it will discharge its noble mission and duty as the army of the revolution, the party, and the people.

Let us all single-heartedly rally around the party center with the respected and beloved Comrade Kim Il-song as its head. Let us all vigorously fight for national reunification and for the victory of the socialist, communist cause.

Long live Comrade Kim Il-song, the great leader of our party and people.

Long live the glorious WPK, organizer and leader of all victories of the Korean people.

Long live the 60th anniversary of the founding of the heroic Korean People's Army, the revolutionary armed forces of our party.

Kim Il-song Receives Heads of State

SK2504160892 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1528 GMT 25 Apr 92

[Text] Pyongyang April 25 (KCNA)—Comrade Kim Il-song, general secretary of the Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea and president of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, and Comrade Kim Chong-il, member of the Presidium of the Political Bureau and secretary of the Central Committee [C.C] of the Workers' Party of Korea [WPK] and supreme commander of the Korean People' Army, received at the Kumsusan Assembly Hall today heads of state, delegations and delegates of various countries on a visit to our country to participate in the celebrations of the 60th founding anniversary of the Korean People's Army.

Among them were His Royal Highness Samdech Norodom Sihanouk, head of state and president of the Supreme National Council of Cambodia; Kaysone Phomvihane, chairman of the Central Committee of the Lao People's Revolutionary Party and president of the Lao People's Democratic Republic; Teodoro Obiang Nguema Mbasogo, president of the Republic of Equatorial Guinea and founder-chairman of the Democratic Party of Equatorial Guinea; revolutionary commandant Juan Almeida Bosque, member of the Political Bureau of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Cuba and vice-president of the council of state of the Republic of Cuba who is heading the Cuban party, state government and revolutionary armed forces delegation and other delegations, delegates and prominent figures from 60 odd countries.

Present there were Marshal O Chin-u, member of the Presidium of the Political Bureau of the Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea, vice-chairman of the National Defence Commission of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, member of the party Central Military Commission and Minister of People's Armed Forces; Yi Chong-ok and Pak Song-chol, Politburo members of the C.C., WPK and vice-presidents; Yon Hyong-muk, politburo member of the C.C., WPK and premier of the Administration Council; Kim Yong-nam, Politburo member of the C.C., WPK, vice-premier of the Administration Council and foreign minister; Vice Marshal Choe Kwang, Politburo member of the C.C., WPK, vice-chairman of the National Defence Commission of the DPRK, member of the party Central Military Commission and chief of the general staff of the Korean People's Army; and Kim Yong- sun, secretary of the C.C., WPK.

The guests warmly hailed the 60th founding anniversary of the heroic Korean People's Army.

President Kim Il-song and Comrade Kim Chong-il expressed thanks for this and had a cordial and friendly talk with them before posing for a photograph with them.

Commentary Demands Inspection of U.S. Bases

SK2704010092 Pyongyang Korean Central Broadcasting Network in Korean 1150 GMT 23 Apr 92

[Commentary by station commentator Yun Pyong-son: "Do They Really Want To Resolve the Nuclear Issue?"]

[Text] The denuclearization of the Korean peninsula is an urgent problem directly connected with the life, death, and survival or destruction of the nation, and it is an important key to the world's antinuclear cause for peace.

Thanks to the consistent efforts of our republic, progress has recently been made in denuclearizing the Korean peninsula, such as the adoption and effectuation of the North-South joint declaration on denuclearization and the formation and operation of the Joint Nuclear Control Committee.

The nuclear safeguards accord signed between the government and the International Atomic Energy Agency was deliberated and approved at the Third Session of the Ninth Supreme People's Assembly of the DPRK some time ago. This is clear proof of our antinuclear policy, and it is another momentous event in realizing the denuclearization of the Korean peninsula.

Our position is to perfectly realize the denuclearization of the Korean peninsula from an independent position and eliminate the danger of nuclear war at its source. We have made every serious and sincere effort at the North-South Joint Nuclear Control Committee with this position and attitude. However, judging from the South's attitude, we cannot but doubt whether it has the will to put into practice the joint denuclearization declaration.

At the third round of the North-South Joint Nuclear Control Committee held on 21 April, the South side came to the meeting without even a draft agreement on implementing the joint denuclearization declaration. Then, absurdly blaming us, the South side again attempted to degenerate the Joint Nuclear Control Committee into a purely inspection organization and realize its insidious purpose. The South side continued playing cheap tricks in order to exclude the U.S. nuclear weapons and nuclear bases in South Korea from being inspected.

Since the mission of the North-South Joint Nuclear Control Committee is to implement the joint denuclearization declaration, it is clear to everyone that a comprehensive agreement containing measures for implementing the joint declaration clause by clause should be made in order to advance the work of the joint committee. The fact that the South side has not brought a draft agreement to the three rounds of meetings so far and avoided beginning the discussion on the contents of the draft agreement based on the reasonable draft agreement and draft inspection regulations we put forward at the meeting must be regarded as an overt delaying tactic.

The draft of inspection regulations the South side produced is not aimed at practically promoting the denuclearization of the Korean peninsula based on the joint denuclearization declaration and the agreement on the formation and operation of the North-South joint nuclear control committee, but is for other purposes. We take issue, in particular, with the South side's desperate tactic to stop the inspection of the U.S. nuclear weapons and nuclear bases in South Korea.

The key to denuclearization of the Korean peninsula is the withdrawal of the nuclear weapons and nuclear bases from South Korea. Although the South Korean authorities say that all U.S. nuclear weapons have been withdrawn from South Korea, we have no way of knowing whether nuclear weapons still exist in South Korea or whether they have all actually be withdrawn.

With the revelation some time ago of the secret underground nuclear weapons depots in South Korea, no one can believe the South Korean ruler's declaration on the nonexistence of nuclear weapons. If there were no U.S. nuclear weapons hidden in South Korea, why would the South side so desperately oppose our proposal for an all-out simultaneous nuclear inspection? It is clear that the South side's position is to follow the U.S. nuclear policy of continuously holding South Korea as its largest nuclear forward base in the Far East, to live under the so-called nuclear umbrella, and not to implement the joint denuclearization declaration.

The joint denuclearization declaration is the joint national declaration solemnly proclaimed to the people at home and abroad. It is not a document that can or cannot be implemented. It is a program that should be implemented without fail. If the South Korean authorities have the will to implement the joint denuclearization declaration, they should not resort to delaying tactics any more but should come to the discussion of issues with sincerity. They should not play tricks, raving about trial inspection, but should open to inspection all the U.S. Forces' nuclear bases in South Korea and accept all-out inspection of the U.S. nuclear weapons and nuclear bases. If they continue ridiculing the nation with the denuclearization issue, they will meet with more denunciation at home and abroad.

South Korea

Czechoslovak President Havel Arrives for Visit

SK2604091192 Seoul YONHAP in English 0857 GMT 26 Apr 92

[Text] Seoul, April 26 (OANA-YONHAP)—Czechoslovakian President Vaclav Havel arrived here Sunday afternoon for a three-day official visit at the invitation of President No Tae-u.

Prime Minister Chong Won-sik met with Havel, the first Czechoslovak head of state to visit Korea, at Seoul Airport.

No and Havel are to have a summit meeting Monday at Chongwadae (the presidential house) and discuss measures of improving bilateral ties.

Havel signs the investment guarantee and double taxation avoidance agreements during his stay here.

No will explain to Havel recent developments on the Korean peninsula including the inter-Korean issues and in the global community, especially in Northeast Asia, a Chongwadae source said.

It is expected that Havel's visit will help deepen the cooperative relationship between the two countries and forge a bridgehead for Korea to advance into East European markets.

South Korea and Czechoslovakia set up diplomatic ties in March 1990. Czechoslovakia had about 10 million U.S. dollars of surplus in trade with South Korea last year.

Havel leaves here Tuesday.

No, Havel Discuss Cooperation, Security

SK2704091592 Seoul YONHAP in English 0901 GMT 27 Apr 92

[Text] Seoul, April 27 (OANA-YONHAP)—South Korea and Czechslovakia agreed Monday to promote bilateral economic cooperation and work together for peace and stability on and around Korean peninsula.

South Korean President No Tae-u and visiting Czechoslovak President Vaclav Havel expressed satisfaction at the growth of their ties since diplomatic normalization in March 1990, No's spokesman said after the two leaders' summit.

They agreed that they should further strengthen practical cooperation in the future.

Havel came to Seoul Sunday [27 April] as the first Czechoslovak president to ever to come to South Korea.

No explained the current political developments in Korea and Northeast Asia and stressed that North Korea must accept not only the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) nuclear inspection but also the inter-Korean inspection as soon as possible, the spokesman said.

The two presidents agreed that deterring North Korea's nuclear weapons development is critical for security on Korean peninsula and in Northeast asia and pledged to follow international action closely, he said.

No promised to positively consider Czechoslovak's request for aid from South Korea's Economic Development Cooperation Fund (EDCF) and negotiate joint entry into third country markets.

Havel expressed full support for South Korea's efforts for peace in the region, the spokesman said.

He said the success of democratic and economic reforms in middle and Eastern Europe will contribute to global stability and stressed the importance of close South Korea-Czechoslovak economic cooperation, he said.

The two countries concluded agreements on investment protection and avoidance of double taxation earlier in the day.

Havel is to tour South Korean farms and industrial facilities on Tuesday before returning to his country.

Leaders Give Banquet Speeches

SK2704102992 Seoul YONHAP in English 1013 GMT 27 Apr 92

[Text] Seoul, April 27 (OANA-YONHAP)—The presidents of South Korea and Czechoslovakia expressed hope Monday for heightened economic cooperation and cooperation for peace on the Korean peninsula.

Only a fragment remained of the wall that once separated East and West, visiting Czech President Vaclav Havel said at a banquet.

"A part of that fragment is, unfortunately, still constituted by the Panmunjom line where a Czechoslovak mission, among others, has for decades been serving in a supervisory capacity," he said.

Czechoslovakia is one of four countries on the Neutral Nations Supervisory Commission (NNSC), installed to ensure that South and North Korea abide by the terms of an armistice agreement signed in 1953.

"I trust that the time when their assignment will come to an end is within sight now," said Havel, who arrived Sunday [26 April] at the invitation of President No Tae-u. Their countries normalized ties in March 1990.

"...I am convinced that an intensification of our economic cooperation will pave the way for contacts in all the areas that make up the relationship between the two countries," Havel said.

It was true that the people of Czechoslovakia had paid attention only to the Communist half of Korea, he said.

"There was very little we were allowed to know about the other half, that is, about your Republic.

"Both of our countries possess rich cultural, intellectual and religious traditions, and the spiritual life of both nations will certainly be enriched as we improve our mutual knowledge in these areas," he said.

No, in his banquet speech, expressed satisfaction at the growing number of joint ventures and other signs of economic cooperation between the two countries.

"My administration has already invited Czechoslovak experts to Seoul to discuss ways to promote bilateral economic cooperation based on the complementarity of our two nations' industrial structures," No said.

"The investment guarantee agreement and the double taxation avoidance agreement that have been signed between our two countries today will serve as institutional devices to promote bilateral economic cooperation," he said.

South Korea wanted to liquidate the legacies of the cold war and achieve national reunification by the end of the century, No said.

"I hope and expect that the Czechoslovak people who love freedom and peace like no others will support our endeavors," he said.

Investment Protection Accord Signed

SK2704064992 Seoul YONHAP in English
0629 GMT 27 Apr 92

[Text] Seoul, April 27 (YONHAP)—South Korea and Czechoslovakia signed Monday an agreement for promotion and reciprocal protection of investments and a convention for the avoidance of double taxation and prevention of fiscal evasion.

Korean Foreign Minister Yi Sang-ok and Czechslovak Economic Minister Vladimir Dlouhy represented their nations.

The investment agreement grants investors of the two nations native-people and most-favoured-nation status, and covers the protection of remittances by free, convertible currencies, and the principles of compensation and claim settlement in case of nationalization.

The tax convention deals with leviable taxes and taxation principles by income.

North-South Exchange Subcommittee Meeting Detailed

SK2704101792 Seoul YONHAP in English
1002 GMT 27 Apr 92

[Text] Seoul, April 27 (OANA-YONHAP)—South and North Korea agreed Monday on the format of the joint exchanges and cooperation committees but remained apart on how many committees to form.

They failed to make any headway on arranging reunions of families separated after the 1950-1953 Korean war.

The delegates will meet again Tuesday [28 April] from 10 A.M. at the truce village of Panmunjom. If they reach agreement on the details, they will begin preparing text on establishment and operation of the South-North joint exchanges and cooperation committee, officials said.

Members of the Exchanges and Cooperation Subcommittee in their third meeting agreed that the committee should be membered by nine delegates from each side headed by minister or vice minister-level official.

The committee should be in charge of preparing detailed agreements and have working-level consultation body with experts present.

South Korea insists on forming three committees on economic, social-cultural, and travel-telecommunication fields while North Korea demands only two, one on economic and another on all other issues.

This will be tackled at Tuesday's contact, officials here said.

The two sides also remained apart on ways to authorize South and North Korean partners in cooperation projects, ensuring free and safe cross-border travel and reconnecting roads between the divided sides, officials said.

Both agreed on the need to open economic consultation and information exchange offices at the truce village, but North Korea insisted that these maters be discussed after the committee is formed.

Southern delegates made clear that they would not agree to adopting any subsidiary agreements before the two sides come up with concrete measures for family reunions, said the officials.

South Korea proposed as a priority project family reunion, at least for the aged people.

Pyongyang on Monday demanded that Seoul must first turn over Yi In-mo, a communist journalist who engaged in partisan activities during the Korean war.

Yi is serving a prison term for refusing to give up communism.

Daewoo Group To Supply Computers to North Korea

SK2704032092 Seoul KYONGHYANG SINMUN in Korean 27 Apr 92 p 1

[Text] The Daewoo Group will supply personal computers to North Korea in May to help modernize its administration network.

A relevant official of the Daewoo Group on 26 April revealed that "when Daewoo Group Chairman Kim U-chung visited North Korea last January, he suggested to North Korean President Kim Il-song that 16-bit computers were required for modernizing North Korea's administrative work, and they agreed on delivery before 15 April, President Kim's 80th birthday."

This official explained that after Chairman Kim returned, the Daewoo Telecommunications Company began making the computers for North Korea. However, production was suspended because trade relations between the North and the South withered up due to North Korea's nuclear issue, but production resumed with a view to shipment in May.

The Daewoo Group named this the "K-K Project" after Kim U-chung and Kim Il-song and is pushing for this project. When production is completed, Daewoo will send them to North Korea through Hong Kong. In order to erase the certificate of origin of the computers, the Daewoo Telecommunications Company has erased serial numbers of computers already made. The company will not put serial numbers on the new products.

Meanwhile, Kim Tok-chung, professor of Sogang University and elder brother of Chairman Kim U-chung, has been invited to attend the "forum on Northeast Asian economy" slated for 27 April to 4 May in Pyongyang. Thus, business circles predict that during his stay in Pyongyang, Professor Kim Tok-chung will discuss the details on supplying the computers, including time and method of shipment, with North Korean side.

The trade of advanced electronic products between the North and South of Korea is being planned for the first time.

PRC Sports Minister Arrives in Seoul

SK2604105792 Seoul YONHAP in English 1044 GMT 26 Apr 92

[Text] Seoul, April 26 (OANA-YONHAP)—Wu Shaozu, state physical culture and sports minister of China, arrived in Seoul Sunday for a seven-day visit here.

Wu said at his arrival statement that his Korean trip was aimed at learning sports skills from South Korea and thanking Korean enterprises that helped China during the 1990 Beijing Asian Games.

He declined to comment in detail on the timing of the Korea-China diplomatic normalization and the bilateral sports exchange agreement.

Wu is scheduled to meet with Korean Sports and Youth Minister Yi Chin-sam Monday and tour Korean sports facilities while staying here until May 2.

Signs Sports Science, Exchange Accord

SK2704122192 Seoul YONHAP in English 1213 GMT 27 Apr 92

[Text] Seoul, April 27 (OANA-YONHAP)—South Korea and China signed a sports science information and material exchange agreement Monday calling for joint participation in seminars and meetings between sports officials.

The agreement was concluded by Chong Song-tae, director of the Korea Sports Science Institute, and Lu Shaozhong, head of China's Academy of Sports Science.

Lu is visiting Seoul from Sunday, accompanying Chinese State Physical Culture and Sports Minister Wu Shaozu. Seoul and Beijing do not have diplomatic relations.

The five-article agreement is effective for four years from Monday. It calls for exchange of booklets on sports science, exchange of technological information on sports equipment, invitation of each other to seminars and international conferences and consultations between sports-related officials when necessary.

Wu, meanwhile, met with South Korean Sports and Youth Minister Yi Chin-sam and expressed hopes for increased sports exchanges between the two countries.

Wu said he wants to invite Yi to the first Northeast Asian Games opening in Beijing in May next year.

Japan Agrees To Help Rectify Trade Imbalance

SK2504031592 Seoul THE KOREA HERALD in English 25 Apr 92 p 8

[Text] Japan agreed to help Korean companies' exports in order to correct Korea's trade deficit with Japan, the Korea-Japan Economic Association (KJEA) said yesterday.

In a statement released Thursday after a two-day session of the 24th Joint Conference of the Korea-Japan Japan-Korea Economic Committees held in the Japanese city of Sendai, Korea agreed to strengthen its international competitiveness by adjusting its industrial structure.

The KJEA and the Korea-Japan Economic Association shared the view that they will boost cooperation between the two countries to contribute to the international society.

The two associations agreed to expand exchanges of personnel and culture to enhance mutual understanding between the two countries.

They agreed that Japan and Korea need to make every effort to promote cooperation in investment and technology between them.

The two countries also need to push for transfer of technology to Korea from Japan to boost technological ties.

The meeting was attended by 84 businessmen from Korea and 133 from Japan.

Manufacturers Fear Threat of Chinese Products

SK2504034792 Seoul THE KOREA TIMES in English 25 Apr 92 p 8

[Text] The Korean Trade Commission yesterday conducted a public hearing on alleged injury to domestic makers of cotton swabs and ice bar sticks because of increasing imports from China at a conference room in the Trade-Industry Ministry.

Headed by Kim Wan-sun, the commission has been investigating the case since Jan. 29 this year.

In November last year, 28 makers of cotton swabs and two makers of ice bar sticks lodged a joint petition with the commission complaining that they were seriously suffering from rising imports of cheap Chinese products since 1989.

In the petition, they called upon the commission to take due steps to curb imports from China.

The public hearing was attended by four manufacturers and two importers along with some from the Consumer Protection Board.

During the hearing, the four makers asked the government to restrict imports of cotton swabs and ice bar sticks from China and raise their customs duties over the next four years.

They also called upon the government to provide financial aid to the local producers.

In the meantime, the two importers said that the domestic makers of cotton swabs and ice bar sticks will be unable to strengthen their international competitiveness through such make-shift rescue steps to be taken by the government.

Citing that Korea lacks white birch used for the manufacture of cotton swabs and ice bar sticks and domestic makers are burdened with increasing labor costs, they contended that imports of cheap Chinese products would be beneficial to the nation's economy.

Based on the result of the public hearing and on-going investigation, the commission will rule on whether or not the domestic makers were injured by the imports from China next month.

Imports of cotton swabs and ice bar sticks were liberalized in 1977. At present, an 11 percent customs duty is levied on the imports but the rate is scheduled to decrease to 9 percent next year and 9 percent in 1994.

According to statistics from the customs office, imports of cotton swabs amounted to 909 tons worth $1.713 million last year. The volume showed an 8.1 percent increase from 841 tons registered in 1990, while the value rose 14.1 percent from $1.501 million.

Imports of ice bar sticks last year stood at $1.017 million worth of 1,726 tons compared with $469,600 worth of 507.9 tons recorded in 1990.

Meanwhile, domestic production of cotton swabs last year amounted to 2,671 tons, down 31 percent from 3,870 tons in 1990. That of ice bar sticks also decreased as much as 84 percent from 1,578 tons in 1990 to 253 tons last year.

Factory prices of cotton swabs averaged 0.24 won per unit last year compared with 0.2 won for imported goods, while those of ice bar sticks were 1.3 won on average against 1.03 won for imported products.

Affiliated with the Trade-Industry Ministry, the Korean Trade Commission was set up in 1987, modeled after the International Trade Commission of the United States, to check unfair trade practices by domestic and foreign enterprises.

Kim Chong-pil Announces Support for Kim Yong-sam

SK2704033192 Seoul YONHAP in English 0236 GMT 27 Apr 92

[Text] Seoul, April 27 (YONHAP)—Kim Chong-pil, a co-chairman of the ruling Democratic Liberal Party (DLP), announced Monday he will support executive chairman Kim Yong-sam for the party's nomination for president at the May 19 national convention.

Kim, leader of the New Democratic Republican Party faction, told reporters that as long as he had decided to support Kim Yong-sam he would do his utmost for the successful candidacy of the executive chairman.

He said that he would accept the honorary chairmanship of a committee to have Kim Yong-sam as the presidential candidate of the ruling party and Rep. Yi Pyong-hui would lead his faction as one of three chairmen of the committee.

For the revitalization of the nation's economy and progress for unification of the country, the smooth and stable succession of power by the ruling party was a must, Kim Chong-pil said.

"It is only natural," he added, "that Kim Yong-sam should lead the party in order to maintain the spirit of the three-party merger and to carry out difficult national tasks ahead."

Accordingly, the New Democratic Republican Party faction, with the exception of a few members including Rep. Yun Song-han, is expected to join Kim Yong-sam's camp, party sources said.

Prior to his declaration for Kim Yong-sam, Kim Chong-pil held a meeting of some senior 60 party members in his camp, including chiefs of local chapters, especially from Taejon and South Chungchong Province, his power base, and asked for their support.

Burma

Than Shwe Appointed Defense Services Chief

BK2504142092 Rangoon Radio Burma in Burmese 1330 GMT 25 Apr 92

[Notification No. 30/92 of the State Law and Order Restoration Council; dated 25 April 1992]

[Text] Apppointment of the commander in chief of the Defense Services:

The State Law and Order Restoration Council [SLORC] has appointed General Than Shwe, Army Serial No. 6710, deputy commander in chief of the Defense Services from the Office of the Commander in Chief of the Defense Services, Ministry of Defense, as commander in chief of the Defense Services effective 23 April 1992.

By the authority invested in me

[Signed] Major General Khin Nyunt, secretary-1, SLORC

NLD Leader, Daw Suu Kyi's Secretary Freed

BK2604124592 Rangoon Radio Burma in Burmese 1150 GMT 26 Apr 92

[From the program "News in Brief"]

[Text] U Chit Khaing, who was central executive committee member of the National League for Democracy [NLD] and convicted under existing laws on 15 May 1991, and U Maung Maung, U Ohn Maung, U Saw Chit Than, and U Tin Aye, who were members of the NLD Panel of Chairmen and convicted under existing laws on 30 January 1992, were released today from Insein Central Jail in accordance with Declaration No. 11/92 of the State Law and Order Restoration Council [SLORC] issued on 24 April.

Ma Theingi, who was personal secretary to Daw Suu Kyi and convicted under existing laws on 3 March 1992, and Ma Nita alias Ma Yin Yin May, who was a local employee at the British Embassy and convicted under existing laws on 19 November 1990, were also released today from Insein Central Jail in accordance with SLORC Declaration No. 11/92.

Lieutenant Colonel Than Tun, General Staff officer Grade-1 from the office of the Director of Defense Services Intelligence, and responsible personnel concerned went to Insein Central Jail this afternoon and released the seven detainees after explaining the home minister's order that commuted their remaining sentences in accordance with SLORC Declaration No. 11/92 issued on 24 April. The detainees were reunited with their families after their release.

U Nu, Other Leaders Freed

BK2504131992 Rangoon Radio Burma in Burmese 1215 GMT 25 Apr 92

[Text] Release From Detention and Restriction of U Nu, Who Formed a Parallel Government, and Four Members of His Parallel Government:

Authorities concerned went to the respective homes of five remaining members of the U Nu parallel government who have not resigned—U Nu, Bohmu Aung, U Than Sein, U Ba Swe, and Thakin Khin Aung—this afternoon and released them after explaining to them that the restriction order has been lifted in accordance with Declaration No. 11/92 of the State Law and Order Restoration Council issued on 24 April.

U Nu and the aforementioned four members of his parallel government were arrested on 29 December 1989 because they were listed as Cabinet members of the parallel government of U Nu formed on 9 September 1988. It was learned that the restriction order was placed on them under Article 10-B of the Law Safeguarding the State from Destructive Elements.

Release From Detention of Seven Members of the Patriotic Old Comrades League:

Seven members of the Patriotic Old Comrades, who were serving jail sentences after legal action was taken against them under existing laws, were released today from Insein Central Jail in accordance with Declaration No. 11/92 of the State Law and Order Restoration Council issued on 24 April.

The seven members of the Patriotic Old Comrades League who were released today were: U Shwe, Thiha Thura U Po Thein, U Hla Pe, U Khin Maung Tun, U Myo Aung, U Steven Kyu, and U Ba Htay.

Authorities concerned went to Insein Central Jail this afternoon and released the seven detainees after explaining the Home Minister's Order, which commuted their remaining sentences in accordance with No. 11/92 of the SLORC issued on 24 April. The detainees were reunited with their families after being released.

U Nu in 'Very Good Shape'

BK2604135692 Hong Kong AFP in English 1252 GMT 26 Apr 92

[Text] New Delhi, April 26 (AFP)—Burmese dissident U Nu, freed from jail Saturday by the junta in Rangoon, is in "very good shape" and credits Buddhism for giving him strength in prison, his daughter here said Sunday.

Than Than U told AFP she spoke for about seven minutes with her father, who turns 85 next month, and mother Daw Mya Yi, 81, who had also been detained, a few hours after their release.

"Mainly I asked about their health," said Than Than U, who works for All India Radio's Burmese-language service.

"He said that because he and my mother are both very religious minded, they are both in very good shape."

U Nu had been detained since December 1989 for refusing to dissolve a "parallel" government which he had formed during massive pro-democracy unrest in Burma the previous year.

He was Burma's last democratically elected prime minister before he was toppled in a 1962 coup.

His release, and that of seven other political prisoners, followed the resignation Thursday of General Saw Maung as head of the all-powerful Burmese junta, which has been widely condemned for human rights abuses.

Than Than U, 45, said the call from home—where the phone was reconnected Saturday—was "so sudden, I didn't expect it," and that she did not discuss with her father the significance of Saw Maung's resignation.

Nor did they talk about the fate of other jailed democracy activists, including Nobel Peace Prize winner Aung San Suu Kyi, who remains under house arrest in Rangoon.

Than Than U said she expected to talk again with her parents soon, adding that U Nu's release appeared to be unconditional—"and even if (the junta) had put conditions, I think he would not have agreed to them."

Aung San Suu Kyi's Husband, Sons To Visit

BK2504135492 Rangoon Radio Burma in Burmese 1330 GMT 25 Apr 92

[Text] It has been learned from authorities concerned that Mr. Michael Aris, husband of Daw Aung San Suu Kyi and British citizen; Alexander John Christopher Aris, her elder son; and Daniel Kim (Alendro) Aris, her younger son; will be allowed to enter Burma to allow a family reunion.

Guerillas Expecting Situation To Worsen

BK2604013692 Bangkok THE NATION in English 26 Apr 92 p A4

[Text] Chiang Mai—Thai border officials and anti-Rangoon ethnic guerrillas expressed fear over the possibility of the political and economic situation worsening due to the changeover to a more hardline Burmese leadership.

Spokesmen of the Karen National Union (KNU) and the Mong Tai Army (MTA) of drug warlord Khun Sa said they expected intensified military deployment and fighting in their areas, due to the resignation last Thursday of Burmese junta leader Gen Saw Maung and the subsequent promotion of Gen Than Shwe as his successor.

Thai customs officers in Mae Hong Son Province shared views similar to those of the Karen and the MTA, but added that if such a scenario took place, then the Thai border trade with Burma will be adversely affected.

Thai exports in the province, they said, are mainly daily and basic necessities, while the imports from Burma are mostly logs.

"If the new leader toughens policy to suppress the ethnic minorities, then Thai merchants would certainly be too afraid to do business," one of them said.

Some timber businessmen, who have sub-contracts from Thai traders with logging concessions from Rangoon, said they might give up their contracts, fearing great loss, due to a possible increase in the fighting between Rangoon and ethnic forces.

They claimed that some of their workers and trucks were seized for ransom by Burmese trops in revenge for losing men to the Thai army when they were repulsed while violating Thai teritory in March.

Thai customs officers in Chiang Dao District said they did not expect Thai-Burmese crossborder trade there to be affected greatly, as Rangoon always monopolized and restricted some goods and was still in great need of Thai products.

But business would be affected if Rangoon called for registration of all Burmese traders and scheduled new taxes, they said.

At the same time, the KNU and the MTA said they were afraid of a heavier war between their groups and the Burmese Army as Gen Than Shwe was a "militant person, who likes to use force and loathes negotiations."

The MTA, said its spokesman, wanted to see unity and cooperation among all anti-Rangoon ethnic groups. "Only then (when we have unity and cooperation) shall we be able to topple the Burmese military regime and get our own land," he said.

Expulsion of 8 NLD Assembly Members Announced

BK2504110392 Rangoon Radio Burma in Burmese 1330 GMT 24 Apr 92

[Press Release No. 18/92 of the Multiparty Democratic General Commission, dated 24 April 1992]

[Text] The commission hereby announces that the following submissions from some political parties registered with this commission have been put on record:

1. Submission from the National League for Democracy [NLD] on expulsion from the league of eight persons whose status as elected members of the People's Assembly has been revoked in accordance with the People's Assembly Election Law. These persons are:

A. U Saw Chit Than, Pa-an Township constituency-1
B. U Hla Pe, Launglon Township constituency-1
C. U Tin Aye, Mandalay Northeast Township constituency-2
D. U Khin Maung Tun, Hmawbi Township constituency-2

E. Retired Colonel Thiha Thura Soe Thein, Sagaing Township constituency-1
F. U Khin Maung Win, Oktwin Township constituency-2
G. U Ohn Maung, Yawngwe Township constituency-2
H. U Maung Maung, Yegyi Township constituency-2

2. Submission from Mro Khami National Solidarity Organization that its headquarters has been moved from No. 27, Middle Street, Pyidawtha Ward, Kyauktaw, Rakhine State to the compound of U San Tha Aung, No. 294, U Oktama Road, Pyidawtha Ward, Kyauktaw, Rakhine State.

U Ohn Gyaw Meets Bangladeshi Counterpart

BK2704075092 Rangoon Radio Burma in English 0700 GMT 27 Apr 92

[Text] Bangladesh and Maynmar [Burma] on Friday opened talks on the future of people who have crossed over from Myanmar to Bangladesh according to officials.

A Foreign Ministry official said that the talks between the Bangladesh foreign minister, Mr Mustafizur Rahman, and his Myanmar counterpart, U Ohn Gyaw, lasted about three hours. The talks were held aboard a state-owned luxury steamboat cruising along the Burhi Ganga River near the capital.

The official also said that the foreign ministers treated their convictions and desires to resolve the issue in a spirit of cooperation and mutual trust. He added that Mr. Rahman and U Ohn Gyaw had directed officials in their teams to work out a framework to resolve the problem.

Brunei, Malaysia & Singapore

Malaysia

SRV Seeks Aid in Setting Up Free Trade Zones

BK2604150692 Kuala Lumpur Radio Malaysia Network in English 1330 GMT 26 Apr 92

[Text] Vietnam has invited Malaysia to prepare proposals for the establishment of free trade zones in that country. International Trade and Industry Minister Datuk Sri Rafidah Aziz said today the invitation was made during the recent visit of Datuk Sri Dr. Mahathir Mohamed to Vietnam. Two sites, Da Nang and Haiphong, were given. However, Malaysia will probably make a proposal for Ho Chi Minh City. She told reporters this after opening a seminar on vision 2020 organized by Sungai Petani UMNO [United Malays National Organization].

Datuk Sri Rafidah said she had promised Vietnam to send a technical delegation to that country to evaluate the feasibility of the sites. The minister said Malaysian companies could function well in Vietnam if they could offer a comprehensive business package.

She added that both countries had agreed to undertake joint ventures worth 100 million ringgit in various fields, including light industries and engineering-based and resource-based industries. These did not include the Hotel Equatorial project worth 60 million ringgit, the agreement of which had already been signed.

India Seeks Defense Technology, Hardware Market

BK2704055692 Kuala Lumpur BERNAMA in English 0422 GMT 27 Apr 92

[Text] Kuala Lumpur, April 27 (OANA-BERNAMA)—India is seeking a market in Malaysia for its defence technology and hardware, the general manager of the Projects and Equipment Corporation of India Limited (PEC), Commodore George Kailath, said Sunday.

India has the right kind of defence technology and hardware needed by Malaysia, he added.

"India produces 95 percent of its defence needs and has only opened the door for its defence products for overseas markets recently," he told BERNAMA at the Defence Services Asia Exhibition here.

The range of equipment and services offered for export include ordnance, explosives, propellants, tracked vehicles, ships, aircraft, strategic electronics, communication equipments and simulators.

Kailath said the products offered for export were tested and had proven their worth, and if required they could be re-engineered or modified according to the buyers' requirements.

India hopes that Malaysia would consider the 105-mm light field gun made by PEC as it increased the fighting efficiency of Rapid Deployment Forces which Malaysia was going to set up soon.

Need for Written Consent on Islamic Law Rejected

BK2404150192 Kuala Lumpur Radio Malaysia Network in English 1330 GMT 24 Apr 92

[Text] The present government will not make any written agreement with the PAS-led [Pan Malaysian Islamic Party] Kelantan government regarding its willingness to allow implementation of Hudud or Islamic penal laws in the state.

Prime Minister Datuk Sri Dr. Mahathir said today he did not see the need for the written undertaking requested by the Kelantan government because the federal government had expressed its readiness to amend any aspect of the federal Constitution which might prevent the implementation of Hudud laws. The federal government will only amend the laws to free the Kelantan government of obstacles which they say exist. The federal government wants to know what the hinderances are and why there is a need for an agreement. The prime minister was speaking to reporters on his return from a five-day official visit to Vietnam.

He was commenting on Kelantan Menteri Besar [Chief Minister] Haji Nik Abdul Aziz Nik Mat's request to the federal government for a written undertaking on its consent to implement Hudud laws in Kelantan. He said if the Kelantan government insisted on a written agreement it could make one but the federal government would not be a party to it. Elaborating, he said he could accept PAS' assurance that implementation of Hudud laws would not bring chaos. He also rejected the Kelantan government's view that everyone would be afraid to commit crimes if Hudud laws were implemented. He spoke of countries that implemented the Hudud laws but if women were to walk alone they will not return. No reports were lodged.

To another question, the prime minister said if Hudud laws were implemented in Kelantan the federal government would not withdraw police personnel from the state because they had other duties to perform. So is the case with the existing judicial system. Datuk Sri Dr. Mahathir said they can try their system using their hit men to arrest people and chop off their hands.

Singapore

Australia Said Not 'Threatened' by AFTA

BK2404155292 Singapore THE STRAITS TIMES in English 22 Apr 92 p 40

[Text] Australia shares ASEAN's interest in keeping world markets open and does not feel threatened by region's free trade area proposal, the country's treasurer, Mr. John Dawkins, said yesterday.

Addressing the Singapore Foreign Correspondents Association yesterday, he said: "I think Australia along with the countries of this region has the greatest interest in an open and free trading system."

"The countries of this region rely very much on the North American market and the European markets remaining open for them." And so do Australians, he added.

"And therefore, we see the thrust towards a freer trading system among the ASEAN countries as essentially a very positive development."

Mr. Dawkins said any arrangement like the ASEAN Free Trade Area (AFTA), which lowered levels of protection, was "inevitable and highly desirable."

He said Australia went through a similar process in lowering trade barriers with its neighbour, New Zealand. Both countries "gained as a result," he said.

As the ASEAN countries introduced the AFTA strategy, their economies would benefit and become larger. "This is something which we very much welcome," he said.

On other issues affecting ASEAN-Australian economic reations, Mr. Dawkins said he did not want the Australian-initiated Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) concept to impede any of the operations of ASEAN.

"We understand that ASEAN has a very important role," he said. But the region could benefit from closer political and, increasingly, economic interaction.

He said he is not suggesting that APEC should become "anything like a trading bloc" of the kind seen in other parts of the world. In reply to a reporter's question, Mr. Dawkins said Australia did not aspire to ASEAN membership.

He said it was unnecessary for Australia to be a member of ASEAN for it to play its role in the region.

Four Former Communists Allowed To Return Home

BK2404110592 Singapore THE STRAITS TIMES in English 23 Apr 92 p 3

[Text] The Government has decided to allow four former members of the Communist Party of Malaya (CPM) who fled to Thailand in the mid-70s to return to Singapore.

The four, all Singapore citizens, are Mr. Ho Fui Shiong, his wife Tay Siok Ngoh, both 37, Mr. Ang Tiam Huat, and his wife Ong Geok Hoon, both 38.

They were among the ex-CPM members who emerged from the jungles at the Thai-Malaysian border following the signing of peace agreements between the CPM and Thailand and Malaysia in December 1989.

A Home Affairs Ministry statement yesterday said they had appealed to the Government to be allowed to return to Singapore, stating in their appeal letters that they had given up communism.

They also undertook to sever organisational ties with the CPM and pledged not to indulge in activities prejudicial to the internal security of Singapore.

"After interviewing them, the Internal Security Department [ISD] is satisfied that they genuinely want to start life afresh and will abide by the written undertakings they have given," the Home Affairs Ministry said.

In 1989, the Singapore Government made it clear that Singaporeans among the more than 1,000 guerillas hiding in the jungles would be allowed to return to Singapore if they proved that they had given up communism.

About 50 ex-CPM members of Singapore origins are believed to be still in Thailand, including a leader of the CPM, Fang Chuang Pi, nicknamed "The Plen."

The four, all former members of the Malaysian National Liberation Army, the military arm of the CPM, are believed to be the first group from the Thai-Malaysian border to be allowed to return.

The ministry said they also agreed to abide by five conditions imposed by the Government for their return. They have to get prior written approval from the ISD director if they wish to:

—Change their residential address;
—Travel outside Singapore;

—Seek or accept employment; and

—Issue public statements, address public meetings, take part in any political activiity or hold office, or take part in activities of an organisation.

—In addition, they must not knowingly associate with anyone who is currently or has been detained under security laws such as the Emergency Regulations of the Federation of Malaya or of the Colony of Singapore; the Preservation of Public Security Ordinance, 1955, of Singapore; or under the Internal Security Acts of the Federation of Malaya, Malaysia, or Singapore.

But they are allowed to associate with members of the ex-Political Detainees' Association—if they are also members.

The ministry said that Mr. Ho and Mr. Ang also have outstanding charges against them for failure to report for reservist duty. "They will have to face these charges," it added.

Under the 1970 Enlistment Act, they face a maximum fine of $5,000 [Singapore dollars] or three years in jail, or both fine and jail.

Two ex-CPM members were allowed to return to Singapore last year on compassionate grounds, but they were not Singapore citizens and neither came from the Thai-Malaysian border.

The first was Mr. Eu Chooi Yip, who returned in January last year from Hunan in China to be with his family. Five months later, the Government also allowed Indian National P.V. Sarma to enter Singapore on a social visit pass.

Cambodia

Ministry Reports U.S. Firms' Investment Interest

BK2504165892 Phnom Penh SPK in English 0412 GMT 25 Apr 92

[Text] Phnom Penh SPK April 25—Sixteen business firms in the United States have requested the Cambodian Government to invest in different trades in Cambodia, according to the Foreign Investment Department of the Ministry of Planning.

The investments requested by these firms included banking, hotels, airlines, taxi service, engineering, textile, restaurants, fish and lobster breeding, clothes making, production of cigarette, tires and beverage.

Ranariddh Representative Meets U.S. Group

BK2704104892 (Clandestine) Voice of the Khmer in Cambodian 0430 GMT 27 Apr 92

[Text] At 1500 on the afternoon of 23 April at Prince Norodom Ranariddh's residence in Phnom Penh, Prince Norodom Sirivuth, representative of Prince Norodom Ranariddh, chairman of the FUNCINPEC [National United Front for an Independent, Neutral, Peaceful, and Cooperative Cambodia] party, who is also in charge of the FUNCINPEC party's foreign affairs, received a nine-member U.S. delegation which was on a visit to Phnom Penh to search for the remains of the U.S. soldiers missing in war in Cambodia.

Thomas Paul, representative of the delegation and a Vietnam war veteran, expressed deep thanks to Prince Norodom Sirivuth for welcoming his delegation.

On that occasion, Prince Norodom Sirivuth informed the delegation of the rapid development of the process to settle the Cambodian problem. He said that within the next few months, that is in April 1993, a new legal government to be elected by the people will govern Cambodia, adding that by then peace and stability will prevail.

The prince said that Cambodia always welcomes the American friends to invest in Cambodia so that it can quickly restore and develop its economy.

In conclusion, the prince thanked the U.S. delegation for visiting the FUNCINPEC office in Phnom Penh.

Chea Sim Closes 15th CPP Party Plenum

BK2604114792 Phnom Penh Samleng Pracheachon Kampuchea Radio Network in Cambodian 1300 GMT 25 Apr 92

[Text] This morning the 15th plenum of the Cambodian People's Party [CPP] Central Committee terminates its works with success after the three-day session from 22 April to the morning of 25 April 1992.

Presiding over the closing ceremony were His Excellency [H.E.] Heng Samrin, honorary chairman of the CPP Central Committee and chairman of the State Council of the State of Cambodia [SOC] [second Heng Samrin title as heard]; H.E. Chea Sim, chairman of the CPP Central Committee, National Assembly, and National Council of the Kampuchean United Front for National Construction and Defense; and H.E. Hun Sen, vice chairman of the CPP Central Committee and chairman of the SOC Council of Ministers, as well as other excellencies, ladies, and gentlemen who are members of the CPP Central Committee Standing Committee and members of the CPP Central Committee, deputy ministers, and chairmen of the provincial party committees across the SOC. On that occasion, H.E. Chea Sim presented the following address:

[Begin Chea Sim recording] After three days of vigorous work, the 15th plenary session of the CPP Central Committee has achieved a number of important tasks aimed at concretizing the CPP's political program in the course of implementing the Paris 23 October accord for the cause of peace and national reunification in Cambodia. Based on the ample implementation of democracy with a high sense of responsibility for the fate of the country, nation, and people, the plenum has adopted in unison many resolutions, notably the ones endorsing the report on the latest development of the situation in Cambodia since the signing of the accord and the objective of the tasks to be fulfilled from now until elections are held as planned.

Initiating a number of concrete measures to further the CPP's political program constitutes a contribution to making the execution of this plenum's resolutions effective. And the plenum has also approved resolutions on streamlining the structure of the CPP Central Committee and holding an extraordinary session of the party in the future to decide on a number of essential issues.

Through the country and nation's major events since the end of 1991 to date, the CPP's extraordinary session has [word indistinct] the homecoming of His Royal Highness Prince Norodom Sihanouk and his consort and numerous tasks achieved by the UN Advance Mission in Cambodia [UNAMIC] and UN Transitional Authority in Cambodia [UNTAC]. The plenum is extremely pleased with the positive development of the Cambodian situation achieved since the signing of the 23 October accord [words indistinct] the peace process and national reunification in Cambodia under the skillful and clear-sighted leadership of HRH Prince Norodom Sihanouk—

head of state, father of the Cambodian nation, and chairman of the Supreme National Council of Cambodia—and with the assistance from the United Nations and international community as well as the active participation of all Cambodian parties.

In light of this achievement, the plenum wishes to highly extol for their patriotism the Cambodian people from all walks of life—intellectuals, Buddhist monks, students, minority ethnic groups, overseas patriots, party members, cadres, combatants, laborers, employees, and officials at all levels of the party and the government—who have rendered assistance and support [words indistinct] for the activities of the CPP and the SOC Government, chiefly in inviting HRH Prince Norodom Sihanouk and his consort to return home and in following the revered prince in his noble mission to achieve national reunification—this is the hope and aspiration of every Cambodian—for the sake of a peaceful and independent Cambodia with territorial integrity and prosperity.

In maintaining the military, security, social order, and economic situation and averting social crises, we have been able to surmount all sorts of natural calamities to stabilize social life which constitutes a vital component to ensure the normal course of the implementation of the 23 October peace accord with a view to holding general elections as planned. A variety of obstacles ensuing from the development of the new situation and from the instigation by the forces opposing the SOC have been overcome with patience [passage indistinct] the Paris accord. And clearly seeing the scope of the tasks and the weighty responsibility of the CPP, the SOC Government has paved its historic path from today toward holding elections [words indistinct].

The plenum's participants are highly determined and pledge to do whatever they can to continue successfully implementing the plenum's resolutions that call for the achievement of the objective of the political tasks and that of the Paris 23 October accord [words indistinct] by striving to stamp out [words indistinct] and phenomena that hinder the peace process and national reunification in Cambodia.

In this context, the party plenum again pledges to continue rendering its unswerving support, in conjunction with the entire Cambodian people, to Prince Norodom Sihanouk—head of state, father of the nation, and SNC chairman—in his noble task to bring about national reunification, restore peace, and develop the Cambodian society in keeping with the Sangkum Reas Niyum policy [passage indistinct] endorses his candidacy in the future presidential elections in Cambodia. The plenum maintains that the support is a [word indistinct] and key factor to the process of peace, stability, and social development at present and in the future. The CPP's political program should be concretized to serve the people's real interests [passage indistinct] in combination with international conditions to end war, thereby bringing about peace and national reunification on the basis of preventing the return of the disaster of the past. This is to safeguard the nation's social gains with a view toward abolishing the Cambodian people's poverty within the framework of a Cambodia—with independence, sovereignty, and territorial integrity—that firmly maintains a liberal democratic multiparty regime, implements a market economy, and respects human rights. [passage indistinct] in confronting the situation of various aspects [passage indistinct] the plenum has put forth a great many concrete measures to [words indistinct] peace by executing the plenum's resolutions [passage indistinct].

I wish to appeal to [words indistinct), party members, the party's and government's officials, and the compatriots in and outside the country to use their physical and moral strengths to actively participate in making the resolutions of the CPP Central Committee's 15th plenum materialize in our society's political life. This is to jointly enhance the peace process and national reunification in Cambodia [passage indistinct] toward rapid prosperity. All levels and sectors should dedicate attention to further creating, according to their ability, favorable conditions for the UNTAC. And they should continue close cooperation with the latter in carrying out its tremendous operation to implement the peace accord with efficiency.

I wish to call on all the Cambodian parties and various political parties, which will be free to participate in future elections, to select a constituent assembly to stress the great importance of the interests of the nation and motherland by implementing, with the most honest sincerity, the Paris 23 October accord, contributing to [words indistinct] maintaining a neutral political atmosphere and mutual trust toward electing a new government. They should join hands in harmony to rebuild and develop our beloved motherland of Angkor toward prosperity as other civilized countries in the world and to [word indistinct] a (?reunited) Cambodia, with independence and sovereignty, which will reoccupy its legitimate seat in the international forum.

Availing myself of this opportunity, I, on behalf of the CPP and the Cambodian people, wish to again extend profound thanks to the international community for its material and moral assistance for the cause of peace, national reunification, and development of a new Cambodia free from war, [word indistinct], hostility, and poverty. The CPP pledges to continue to do its utmost to stimulate the peace process supported and arranged by the United Nations and international community. The CPP firmly hopes that—thanks to the dexterity displayed by the prince father in his sublime mission to achieve national reunification; the joint support from the entire Cambodian people, CPP, and SOC Government, which follow him at all times; and the support and assistance from the international community—[word indistinct] peace would prevail in Cambodia and blossom, thereby bringing happiness and glory to the Cambodian motherland and people in the near future.

With the satisfactory results gained by the CPP Central Committee's plenary session, I, on behalf of the CPP, would like to express best wishes to the prince head of state and father of the Cambodian nation and his consort. May you both have supreme wisdom and long life and remain as the cool shade for your children in the process of promoting Cambodia's genuine peace, progress, and prosperity. May princess, princesses, excellencies, ladies, gentlemen, and the compatriots in and outside the country have all the best and every success in the performance of your tasks for the cause of the nation and motherland.

I now declare this plenum closed. [applause] [end recording]

Chea Sim Receives Student Appeal to Youths

BK2404054592 Phnom Penh Samleng Pracheachon Kampuchea Radio Network in Cambodian 1300 GMT 23 Apr 92

[Appeal of the Cambodian Students Federation Committee to Cambodian youths "recently" received by Chea Sim—read by announcer]

[Text] We must be united and strengthen the bonds within our ranks in support of the State of Cambodia [SOC] Government under the leadership of His Excellency [H.E.] Heng Samrin, chairman of the SOC Council of State; H.E. Chea Sim, chairman of the National Assembly; and H.E. Hun Sen, chairman of the Council of Ministers. These excellencies are honest persons and genuine patriots. These excellencies have sacrificed their physical and mental efforts for the nation and state. Thanks to these three liberators, the people have been able to save their lives from Pol Pot's ferocious Khmer Rouge savages and their henchmen.

Dear friends: When one drinks water, one must not ignore its source. We must march together for the victory of our revolution and our noble struggle. Cambodia without these leaders would have become hell. Sincerely, the Cambodian Students Federation will always follow these leaders.

Dear friends, we must not wage a revolution within the revolution. We must let the government function effectively and continue to uproot corrupt practices.

Dear friends, silence is more important than words. When the motherland is in danger, anyone who does not yet belong to the Cambodian People's Party must become a member. It is through this party that, at a proper time, we must carry out good activities to suppress Pol Pot's Khmer Rouge clique. This is because anyone who committed murder with a dagger will himself be murdered by a dagger. Through revolutionary traditions, the Cambodian Students Federation recognizes and will always recognize the SOC Government under the leadership of H.E. Heng Samrin, H.E. Chea Sim, H.E. Hun Sen, and the CPP. The Cambodian Students Federation sternly condemns Pol Pot's Khmer Rouge savages and their henchmen for massacring some 3 million Cambodians. Despite UN intervention, Pol Pot's Khmer Rouge have continued to massacre and may continue to do so.

Please accept our immense support. Our struggle is our party. Our struggle is our motherland. Anyone who betrays the party, government, and motherland will be condemned most seriously by the dead.

[Signed] The Committee of the Cambodian Students Federation

Ranariddh Discusses DPRK, PRC Visits

BK2404080492 (Clandestine) Voice of the Khmer in Cambodian 0430 GMT 24 Apr 92

[Text] His Royal Highness [HRH] Prince Norodom Ranariddh, chairman of the FUNCINPEC [National United Front for an Independent, Neutral, Peaceful, and Cooperative Cambodia] Party, member of the Cambodian Supreme National Council [SNC], and supreme commander and commander in chief of the National Army of Independent Cambodia [NAIC] who accompanied HRH Prince Norodom Sihanouk, head of state and chairman of the SNC, from Beijing to the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, said that he would attend the anniversary celebration of the Korean Armed Forces in his capacity as the royal representative of HRH Prince Norodom Sihanouk, as head of the delegation of Cambodia's Armed Forces, and also as representative of NAIC.

Before his departure, HRH Prince Norodom Ranariddh talked about the recent visit to China in an interview by the Voice of the Khmer radio correspondent in Phnom Penh. He said that during that visit, the Chinese Government accorded our delegation a very warm reception in our capacity as a government headed by HRH Prince Norodom Sihanouk. He said that China was very concerned upon learning that violations of the cease-fire agreement still took place in Cambodia. He went on to say that China had urged all Cambodian factions to make an effort to show sincerity toward one another and asked them to reconcile with each other because only this unity can guarantee peace, stability, and a glorious future for Cambodia.

The prince added that China had promised to help restore the economy and the overall situation in Cambodia and to provide assistance in Cambodia's reconstruction. He said that during that visit China gave 10 million yuan for Cambodia's reconstruction and promised to contribute more when Cambodia has a legitimate government.

UN Team Inspects Khmer Rouge Zone

BK2704060292 Phnom Penh SPK in English 0410 GMT 27 Apr 92

[Text] Phnom Penh SPK April 27—A U.N. peacekeeping team has carried out inspections in Khmer Rouge territory, marking the end of the radical factions's refusal to open their fortress to the United Nations, AFP quoted the chief military officer as saying here Sunday.

U.N. military officers spent Saturday evaluating two sites, north and south of Khmer Rouge Commander Ta Mok's headquarters at Anlung Veng in northern Cambodia, said U.N. Military Chief Lieutenant General John Sanderson.

"We went to the sites we wanted to see and now we need to move in by road to confirm the conditions of the roads", Sanderson said in an interview.

"They (the Khmer Rouge) are being more cooperative, no question", he said, "now we want even more cooperation out of them".

The United Nations needs to move freely within the Khmer Rouge-held territory in order to set up cantonment sites for the demobilization of Cambodia's Armed Forces, which is set to begin in June.

Previously, Khmer Rouge leaders were not allowing the U.N. peacekeepers to inspect the sites, saying that the United Nations must first verify the withdrawal of Vietnamese troops from Cambodia.

But Khmer Rouge leader Khieu Samphan changed his tune following a visit by U.N. Secretary General Butrus Butrus Ghali last week. Shortly after the secretary general's departure, he announced that U.N. teams could inspect five cantonment sites beginning Saturday.

The remaining inspections are to be carried out Wednesday and Thursday.

The United Nations is setting up 52 cantonment sites to house 30 percent of the armies of all four previously warring factions. The remaining 70 percent are due to be demobilized. The other three factions have already allowed U.N. inspections.

The inspection teams went to the sites looking for water, housing facilities, nearby building materials and ease of access. The suitability of the sites proposed is still being evaluated, but access by road is a problem, Sanderson said.

Crossing the old frontlines from Phnom Penh-held areas into Khmer Rouge zones often means crossing through minefields, Sanderson said.

"I've said we must have access by road. They've told us where the mines are, and I've asked them to assist in the clearance of mines", he said.

"Things are moving along very well," he said, "the big question for all of us now is the imminent wet season and the effect on our operations".

Six months of daily monsoon rains are due to begin within weeks, making roads virtually impassable throughout the country.

Sanderson said flooding might block routes to cantonment sites, making the process of carrying out the peace plan more difficult.

Khieu Samphan Office on UN Chief's Aid Appeal

BK2704083792 (Clandestine) Voice of the Great National Union Front of Cambodia in Cambodian 2330 GMT 26 Apr 92

["Confirmation by His Excellency Khieu Samphan's office in Phnom Penh revealing facts regarding the draft appeal calling for aid to consolidate the Phnom Penh side;" dated 25 April—read by announcer]

[Text] 1. On the afternoon of 19 April, the office of His Excellency [H.E.] Khieu Samphan, member of the Supreme National Council [SNC] and head of the Party of Democratic Kampuchea [PDK] received a draft appeal calling for aid to rebuild Cambodia. This draft appeal is an attempt to legalize and consolidate the Vietnamese-installed regime in Cambodia. This constitutes a violation of the Paris agreement.

2. On the evening of 19 April, H.E. Khieu Samphan spoke to H.E. Butrus Butrus Ghali, UN secretary general, about this issue of the draft appeal for aid and handed over a letter to him. H.E. Butrus Butrus Ghali told H.E. Khieu Samphan that it would be wrong to give the aid just to the Phnom Penh regime; that the aid should not be given to any party alone; that during the transitional period, only the SNC was the sole source of power in Cambodia; and that the United Nations would deal with the four Cambodian factions as equals without being partial toward any one party.

At the same time, H.E. Yasushi Akashi, special envoy of the UN secretary general and head of the UN Transitional Authority in Cambodia [UNTAC] also expressed his agreement with this opinion of H.E. Butrus Butrus Ghali, UN secretary general. At that time, H.E. Yasushi Akashi also informed H.E. Khieu Samphan that he would examine the draft appeal on the night of 19 April before presenting it to the UN secretary general for official pronouncement.

3. Due to lack of time to rearrange the document, his excellency the UN secretary general decided that he would not yet fully approve this draft appeal but would just make a short appeal.

As for the detailed draft appeal [words indistinct] for discussion by the four Cambodian factions and agreement within the SNC before making any decision.

4. However, on 21 April the office of the United Nations in New York publicized the main points in that old draft appeal for aid. Such a pronouncement might cause the world public opinion to misunderstand that H.E. Butrus Butrus Ghali, UN secretary general, and the other Cambodian factions have approved this draft appeal for aid to consolidate the Phnom Penh regime, despite the fact

that it is contrary to the Paris agreement. Such a case has caused a big misunderstanding in world public opinion.

5. For this reason, the office of H.E. Khieu Samphan, member of the SNC and head of the PDK in Phnom Penh, issued this confirmation on 25 April 1992 emphasizing the facts regarding the draft appeal of His Excellency the UN secretary general as mentioned above.

UN Secretary General's Statement Discussed

BK2604044892 (Clandestine) Voice of the Great National Union Front of Cambodia in Cambodian 2330 GMT 25 Apr 92

["Article:" "The Cambodian people hope that the statement by the UN Secretary General would be concretely implemented by the Transitional Authority in Cambodia"]

[Text] The Cambodian people hope that the statement by the UN Secretary General would be concretely implemented by the Transitional Authority in Cambodia. On 20 April, before his departure from Phnom Penh, Butrus Butrus Ghali said that countries the world over support the United Nations and the UN Transitional Authority in Cambodia [UNTAC] which is implementing every clause to save Cambodia. Butrus Ghali further said that all necessary measures should now be taken to genuinely guarantee the smooth implementation of the Paris agreement, ensure that general elections in 1993 be held as planned, and ensure that Cambodian refugees staying in Thailand are smoothly repatriated.

The Cambodian nation and people are satisfied and immensely happy with UN Secretary General Butrus Ghali's statement which has a just and correct view and stance of world peace, security, and progress of mankind. This is just for the correct implementation of every clause of the Paris agreement on Cambodia. The Cambodian nation and people have firmly grasped the statement by Secretary General Butrus Ghali which says that:

1. Every clause of the Paris agreement will be implemented; and

2. The United Nations, UNTAC, the Supreme National Council [SNC], and all countries concerned with the Paris agreement, should take all necessary measures to, on the one hand, smoothly and correctly implement the Paris agreement, and on the other, to ensure a neutral political atmosphere in view of organizing smooth general elections in 1993 as planned. Furthermore, Cambodian refugees' repatriation from Thailand should be smoothly and safely carried out.

The Cambodian nation and people, like peace- and justice-loving people the world over, welcome this statement by Secretary General Butrus Ghali and are waiting to see UNTAC and the SNC implementing it in accordance with the essence and the direction UN Secretary General Butrus Ghali has clearly set out. This is the confirmation and handing over of this historical task by UN Secretary General Butrus Ghali to UNTAC and the SNC to implement well every clause stated in the Paris agreement.

This is also a yardstick to judge the role, duty, honor, and influence of UNTAC and the SNC vis-a-vis the Cambodian nation and people and toward people and countries the world over in the implementation of the Paris agreement on Cambodia.

SRV Spokesman 'Totally' Denies Troop Presence

BK2504110192 Phnom Penh Samleng Pracheachon Kampuchea Radio Network in Cambodian 0430 GMT 25 Apr 92

[Text] The spokesman of the SRV Embassy in Cambodia on 22 April issued a statement totally rejecting many reports according to which there are Vietnamese troops in a number of areas of Cambodian territory. The statement pointed out that these fabrications not only run counter to the efforts to increase understanding and the traditional friendly relations between the two countries, Vietnam and Cambodia, but also affect cooperation to implement the Paris agreement on Cambodia.

The spokesman stressed that the statement by the SRV Government on 24 Oct 1991 during the signing of the peace agreement on Cambodia clearly says that Vietnam unilaterally withdrew all its troops from Cambodia in September 1989. The SRV, in the past as in the present, fully honors its promise and is always ready to cooperate with concerned parties to scrupulously implement the agreement on Cambodia.

Status of Treaty Implementation Discussed

BK2404050792 (Clandestine) Voice of the Great National Union Front of Cambodia in Cambodian 2330 GMT 23 Apr 92

[Station "article:" "Everything Can Proceed Smoothly in Conformity With the Paris Accord If the Issue of the Presence of Vietnamese Invading Forces in Cambodia Is Resolved First"]

[Text] So far, the course of the Paris accord's implementation continues to be put on hold because the key issue of the presence in Cambodia of all categories of Vietnamese aggressor forces remains unsettled. Consequently, the other clauses of the accord cannot be applied. For instance:

1. The issue of organizing elections: Elections can only be organized if required conditions are sufficient, including a neutral political environment and safety both in Phnom Penh and provinces across Cambodia; and

2. The issue of restoring and rebuilding the country: The restoration and reconstruction cannot be carried out if war is not yet brought to a halt. And to end the war, the Vietnamese must withdraw completely from Cambodia otherwise reconstruction aid and other humanitarian assistance will definitely fall into the hands of the

Vietnamese, who will certainly employ them to further their war of aggression in Cambodia.

The Cambodian people and national resistance forces have repeatedly made clear that all the clauses of the Paris 23 October accord have to be executed from start to finish. Because we have clearly realized that if the root cause of the problem is not completely eradicated, solutions to other issues can never be found. All in all, this will only hold up the implementation of the agreement, thereby allowing the Vietnamese to further legitimize their position to continue their war of aggression and occupation of Cambodia.

Therefore, to speedily and correctly implement all the clauses of the Paris accord, it is imperative to take the following two measures beforehand:

1. Monitoring forces of the UN transitional authority in Cambodia [UNTAC] and four Cambodian parties should be deployed in eastern Cambodia, Phnom Penh, and throughout the country to verify and make sure that all categories of Vietnamese aggressor forces have withdrawn from Cambodia; and

2. The Cambodian parties' armies should be dissolved 100 percent.

Khmer Rouge Stance on Election Clarified

BK2504012692 (Clandestine) Voice of the Great National Union Front of Cambodia in Cambodian 2330 GMT 24 Apr 92

["Article": "Whether the Election in Cambodia Can Speedily Proceed or Not Depends on the Establishment of a Neutral Political Atmosphere in Phnom Penh and Throughout Cambodia"]

[Text] A free, democratic, just, and fair election is the final goal of the Paris agreement and the aspiration of all strata of the Cambodian people of all political tendencies in and outside the country. However, this election should be held in a genuinely peaceful and neutral atmosphere.

To this day, is there a peaceful and neutral atmosphere in Phnom Penh and throughout Cambodia? No. The situation in Phnom Penh and the provinces is not secure. Planned terrorism has been successively and systematically carried out. Nationalists and various politicians are constantly watched and intimidated by the A-3 [police force] and Vietnamese secret agents while Vietnamese forces continue to commit aggression against and occupy Cambodia. In such a situation, can the Cambodian people fully enjoy their rights and freedom in a free, democratic, just, and fair election? No. On the contrary, holding an election under the bayonets of Vietnamese troops and the state authority propped up by the Vietnamese aggressors is simply tantamount to legitimizing Vietnam's act of aggression and occupation of Cambodia.

Therefore, this kind of election is unjust and runs counter to the goal of the Paris agreement and a violation of the people's right to self-determination. Thus, in order for the Cambodian people to have ample opportunity to vote freely, democratically, justly, and fairly in accordance with the Paris agreement, it is necessary for the United Nations and the four Cambodian parties to consult and discuss with one another to quickly establish a peaceful and neutral atmosphere. The concrete measures are the following:

1. To control and ensure that Vietnam withdraw all types of its aggressor forces from Cambodia and prevent Vietnamese forces and weaponry from returning to Cambodia;

2. Disarm and dissolve 100 percent of all Cambodian parties' Armed Forces, including the A-3 force of Vietnam and the Phnom Penh side;

3. The UN Transitional Authority in Cambodia should play its full role as the state authority during the transitional period in Phnom Penh and the provinces.

Address on Troop Dissolution Reported

BK2704084392 (Clandestine) Voice of the Great National Union Front of Cambodia in Cambodian 2330 GMT 26 Apr 92

["Address by the representative of the National Army of Democratic Kampuchea at the meeting in Phnom Penh on 25 April of the Mixed Military Working Group, first level"—read by announcer]

[Text] His Excellency [H.E.] General Sanderson:

First of all, I would like to express thanks to you and joy for setting up today's agenda dealing with the dissolution of the four Cambodian parties' forces and your efforts to put forward reasons lending weight to the 100 percent disarming and dissolution of all four Cambodian parties' Armed Forces.

As Your Excellency knows, before signing the agreement and even after the signing, the Party of Democratic Kampuchea [PDK] has always assisted and supported the astute proposal of His Royal Highness [HRH] Prince Norodom Sihanouk, head of state and chairman of the Supreme National Council [SNC], for the 100 percent dissolution of all four Cambodian parties' Armed Forces within a short time. Your Excellency is well aware of all this through addresses made by H.E. Khieu Samphan and H.E. General Son Sen, and through the successive statements by the PDK. Now I would like to only summarize these reasons as follows:

1. The first part of Article 5, Annex 2 of the Paris agreement, talks about the final decision on the forces, weapons, ammunition, and war materiel of all Cambodian parties, and says that in order to strengthen the direction toward a comprehensive solution, to prevent the recurrence of fighting, to maintain calm and stability, and to create conditions for all parties to have increased

mutual trust, all Cambodian parties pledge to dissolve at least 70 percent of their Armed Forces.

According to the spirit of this sentence, we clearly see that the more the Armed Forces of all four Cambodian parties are dissolved the more the factor ensuring calm, stability, and mutual trust to prevent the recurrence of fighting increases. This means that if 100 percent of all four Cambodian parties' Armed Forces are dissolved, the goal for a comprehensive solution, as stipulated in the Paris agreement, would be fully achieved. It is with this aim that H.E. UN secretary general and the UN Security Council have appealed to all four Cambodian parties to agree to the 100 percent dissolution of troops before the establishment of an electoral register to ensure peace and security and genuinely free and fair elections. The PDK fully supports this appeal.

2. In fact, the cantonment, disarming, and 100 percent dissolution of all four parties' Armed Forces will certainly ensure that foreign forces, which are still hiding among the Armed Forces of any Cambodian parties among the four parties, cannot carry out military activities and violate the cease-fire. In the end, these foreign forces would be compelled to withdraw from Cambodian territory, thereby achieving the goal stated clearly in the agreement, namely the withdrawal from Cambodia of all types of foreign forces.

On the contrary, if measures are taken to maintain even 30 percent of Armed Forces, what is there to guarantee that there are no hidden foreign forces within the Armed Forces of any one Cambodian party? What is there to guarantee that these foreign forces do not carry out activities to create unrest one day in Cambodia before or after the election?

I agree with General Sanderson that the disarming and dissolution of Armed Forces are related to mutual confidence, freedom of movement, and honesty. The factor guaranteeing the realization of all this is not related only to the four parties. As long as there are no foreign forces in control of Cambodia, there will be no obstacles preventing the Cambodian people from having mutual trust, living peacefully, and uniting and cooperating to defend and build the ruined country. Therefore, mutual trust, freedom of movement, and honesty are inseparable from all types of measures, particularly the deployment of UN forces and representatives of all four Cambodian parties along the eastern border and in various provinces, such as Stung Treng, Kompong Cham, Kampot, and so on, to ensure that all types of foreign forces no longer remain in Cambodia and that these forces do not return to Cambodia.

How can there be mutual trust if foreign forces continue to carry out all kinds of maneuvers to get the world to accept the troop withdrawal farce staged in September 1989 as the truth? Even after that September, the Cambodian people and foreign observers acknowledge that foreign forces continue to operate throughout Cambodia. How can there be mutual trust if foreign forces continue to carry out maneuvers, incessantly avoid withdrawal from Cambodia through this or that design? This is another reason for arguing that it is neccessary to disarm and dissolve 100 percent of all four parties' Armed Forces in order to cleanly solve this problem and to avoid suspicion among all parties.

Furthermore, I agree with the reason in the statement by Your Excellency general saying that the 100 percent dissolution of all four parties' Armed Forces will shorten the time these forces have to stay in garrisons during which we have to provide food, medicine, and housing. On this point, I am convinced that all parties are facing difficulties through lack of money to build camps, let alone sustain the troops over the next four or five months. Furthermore, if these Armed Forces are 100 percent dissolved within a short time, they could join their families and relatives to work the land or earn their living straightaway.

In sum, this is an essential reason. With security and realistic living conditions in mind, we clearly see that it is imperative to disarm and dissolve quickly 100 percent of all four Cambodian parties' Armed Forces. Based on this spirit we propose that after all parties' Armed Forces are properly grouped in garrisons, the process of dissolving these forces should be completed within one month. On one hand, this is to reduce the expenses each party and UNTAC [UN Transitional Authority in Cambodia] have to bear, and on the other, to allow these troops to return to their villages and communes to carry out production in accordance with their desires and ability. In particular, this is to quickly end both physical and moral insecurity which the Cambodian people are encountering due to the presence of foreign forces, Armed Forces, war machines, and repression machines of various Cambodian parties.

Only this way can the Cambodian people dare to express their views and carry out various activities to create a neutral political atmosphere which is necessary for ensuring that elections are free, correct, and fair, and so that Cambodia has national reconciliation and durable peace and security.

More Cease-Fire Violations in Kompong Thom Noted

BK2604064292 (Clandestine) Voice of the Great National Union Front of Cambodia in Cambodian 2330 GMT 25 Apr 92

[Text] Reports from Kompong Cham Province say that on 20 April, the Vietnamese aggressors in the 2d Military Region in Kompong Cham dispatched seven truckloads of their troops to Kompong Thom to continue attacking and massacring people and burning people's houses and property in Stoung and Kompong Svay Districts.

This is violating the 23 October 1991 Paris agreement and the cease-fire the four Cambodian parties and the UN Transitional Authority in Cambodia [UNTAC] agreed to on 1 April 1992 in Kompong Thom. People in Kompong Svay and Stoung Districts in Kompong Thom

Province firmly demand that UNTAC and the Supreme National Council supervise the implementation of the 23 October 1991 Paris agreement, and particularly review the decisions of the meeting of the four Cambodian parties and UNTAC concerning the cease-fire in Kompong Thom to prevent the Vietnamese aggressors from committing such a violation.

Fresh Troops Arrive

BK2504013492 (Clandestine) Voice of the Great National Union Front of Cambodia in Cambodian 2330 GMT 24 Apr 92

[Text] People's sources in Kompong Thom, Siem Reap, and Kompong Cham Provinces say that Vietnam and the Phnom Penh side are currently bringing in 1,000 fresh troops to Kompong Thom Province. The reports say that 700 soldiers from the 2d Military Region have already arrived in Kompong Thom Province; 500 of these soldiers are deployed in San Kor Township and the other 200 on Route 12.

Troops from Svay Rieng and Kompong Cham Provinces of the (?4th) Military Region are being brought to Kompong Thom. The reports say that these fresh troops have been included in the Phnom Penh side's 5th Division; they do not remain separate according to their military regions the way it was before the cease-fire was agreed upon in Kompong Thom.

This is a violation of the 23 October Paris agreement and the Kompong Thom cease-fire. The people say that they want the UN Transitional Authority in Cambodia and the four Cambodian parties to take measures to check that reinforcement forces brought from outside are all withdrawn from Kompong Thom and to prevent Vietnam and the Phnom Penh side from sending fresh forces to Kompong Thom to conform with the Kompong Thom cease-fire and the 23 October 1991 Paris agreement.

Agreement Violations Reported in Battambang

BK2504042692 (Clandestine) Voice of the Great National Union Front of Cambodia in Cambodian 2330 GMT 24 Apr 92

[Text] Reports from Battambang District in Battambang Province say that on 17 April, the Vietnamese aggressors brought five truckloads of their forces in Division 94 from Leach District in Pursat Province, and five truckloads of troops from Division 196 from Route 10 to take part with their forces in Division 95 in Taphde to attack and massacre people in Koah Kralar, (Boeng Veal), and at (Phnum Ten) in Battambang District, Battambang Province.

At the same time, the Vietnamese aggressors fired many artillery shells and multiple rockets and also laid thousands of mines which killed or injured many of our people going out to earn a living in the area; cattle have also been victims of Vietnamese mines.

This is a violation of the 23 October 1991 Paris agreement and a continued violation of the cease-fire among activities by the Vietnamese aggressors in constant and systematic violation of the peace agreement. People in Battambang Province are very angry with the Vietnamese aggressors' criminal activities.

People in Koah Kralar in Battambang Province firmly demand that the Vietnamese aggressors immediately stop these insane activities. The people in Battambang Province would like to protest to the UN Advance Mission in Cambodia and the Supreme National Council to check and ensure that Vietnamese aggressor forces are withdrawn immediately from Battambang so that the people can work their land as it is the time of the season to work.

KPNLF Urges Protest Against Corrupt Minister

BK2504074292 Hong Kong AFP in English 0617 GMT 25 Apr 92

[Text] Phnom Penh, April 25 (AFP)—The opposition Khmer People's National Liberation Front (KPNLF) advocated Saturday an anti-corruption demonstration against the Phnom Penh minister of industry.

The KP Bulletin said the minister, Chan Phin, along with the head of the ministry's trade union and the head of the Russeikao Technical School, had sold a state-owned building for 150,000 dollars and pocketed the money.

Citing an anonymous letter sent by people in the three institutions, the KP Bulletin said people "need to be given the right to make demonstrations against the three."

Violence spurred by anti-corruption demonstrations in the capital in December resulted in the deaths of up to 10 people. Since then, all demonstrations need the written permission of Phnom Penh government authorities.

The KP Bulletin also said the KPNLF office here has been flooded with complaints about human rights abuses by police in the provinces, and it apologized for not having the space to print all of them.

Among the alleged abuses is a case in Kompong Speu Province, south of Phnom Penh, on April 7 in which three people were "taken away to be punished" by a group of men in police uniforms who accused them of saying publicly that the police are corrupt and oppressive.

In another case cited in Prey Veng Province near Vietnam, the KP Bulletin said that on April 16, a man was beaten unconscious by 12 policemen "for putting his hand into the affairs of police."

The KP Bulletin is one of a handful of weekly opposition publications available in the capital.

Harassment Practices Against Citizens Condemned

BK2504045692 (Clandestine) Voice of the Khmer in Cambodian 0430 GMT 25 Apr 92

[Editorial of an undated weekly bulletin of the Khmer People's National Liberation Front: "Stop Harassing the People"]

[Text] The accord signed in Paris on 23 October 1991 constitutes an agreement that all Cambodian parties should allow the Cambodian people to fully enjoy their rights as the owner of the country to elect the country's leaders according to their wish. As such, now all the Cambodian parties should regard the people as the holder of the key to the nation who deserve all kinds of respect. The people should not be treated as servants, slaves, or kids by those who put themselves down as leaders, masters, or supervisors. And Cambodians should not use arms, force, or muscle to harass the people no matter what.

Have the people already fully obtained this prerogative at present? All the parties have, however, claimed that they have already handed over the sublime privilege to the people. But so far, the Cambodian people have only seen rights abuses, arbitrary arrests, accord violations, and intimidation to extract support and ballots from the people. As for us, we have witnessed a number of the cruel activities as well. The general public has witnessed their cowardly maneuvers to deprive the people of their rights and freedom—such as abduction at gunpoint, attempted assassination in cities, arrests, imprisonments, and night raids. They have also witnessed soft handling methods. We think that these constitute their astute methods of combining intimidation with cuddling and threats and buying the people's heart with the excess money—the leftovers of their packs—to make themselves tycoons.

Anyway, will those practices be effective? The answer from the Cambodian people is that those actions have more clearly shown their weaknesses. The fanfare about arrests shows that they are barbarous; the publicity about the use of military or police forces indicates that they are despotic; and the boast about considerable money to distribute to the people in an unjustifiable manner demonstrates that they use the small amount of money from their corrupt practices to sell out the nation to buy the people's priceless rights. The shootings to kill prove that they are the people of no recourse and proper means to muster support from the people. All in all, those methods are the most inappropriate.

Therefore, the most suitable methods are the ones that allow the people to act freely. As criticisms from all milieus should be heeded, including those expressed by the people via the weekly bulletin of the Khmer People's National Liberation Front [KPNLF], that appears so far as the only forum for the people to convey their opinions. If these processes can be carried out, conflicts between the people and those in power and between one party and another will die down for certain.

The KPNLF led by His Excellency Son Sann, which is to be transformed into the Liberal Democratic Buddhist Party, will in no way compromise with any party that uses the people as tools, hurls threats at them, and suppresses their rights and freedom. Unambiguously, we consider ourselves the real savior, servant, and defender of the people.

Indonesia

Senator Says U.S. Not To Dictate on E. Timor

BK2304161892 Jakarta ANTARA in English 0937 GMT 23 Apr 92

[Text] Jakarta, Apr 23 (OANA-ANTARA) - U.S. Senator David Boren said here Thursday that his country would not dictate its wishes to Indonesia over the East Timor issue, especially after President Suharto himself had issued an important decision following the November 12, 1991 incident in Dili.

We do not intend to dictate Washington's wishes to this country, he told newsmen after together with his colleagues Senator Clairborne Pell paid a courtesy call on President Suharto.

The two senators were accompanied by the U.S. ambassador to Indonesia, John C. Monjo.

Just like the Indonesian people, the Americans also felt concerns about the November 12, 1991 incident. However, the U.S. really appreciated the setting up of the National Investigation Commission (KPN) to probe into it, he said.

He further said that his government respected the recommendations made by the KPN.

KPN, in its report to the head of state on December 26, 1991, stated that the incident had killed around 50 and that security officials had been overreactive in their efforts to deal with the incident.

The commission recommended as well that anyone found guilty in the incident be punished in accordance with the law.

Several days after President Suharto received the KPN report, in his capacity as the supreme commander of the Indonesian Armed Forces (ABRI), he dismissed Maj. Gen. Sintong Panjaitan (chief of the Udayana Military Command which supervises Bali, East Timor, and Lesser Sunda islands) as well as Brig. Gen. Rudolf Samuel Warouw, the military commander of East Timor, from their posts.

The president also ordered the setting up of a military honorary council (DKM).

Asked why he brought up the East Timor issue again during his visit here, Boren said, as a friend, we just want to express our views openly.

Earlier, State Minister/Secretary Murdiono confirmed reports that the two U.S. senators had expressed the wish to visit East Timor, a former colony of Portugal, which is now Indonesia's 27th province.

The wish was turned down as Jakarta saw there was no need for them to go to the province.

Why should they go there? The East Timorese should be left in peace and develop their welfare without any interference, Murdiono said.

Boren and Pell are both Democrats respectively from Oklahoma and Rhode Island. The former, 51, is chairman of the Senate Select Committee on Intelligence, while the latter, 74, is chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee.

Boren said he would have to respect all the Indonesian Government's decisions, saying that he was only a guest in this country.

Spokesman of the U.S. Embassy here Richard M. Gong said the senators would stay in Indonesia from April 22 to 26.

Gong also quoted Boren as saying that they had no particular agenda other than "listen and learn" as Indonesia has been playing a leading role in the Nonaligned Movement (NAM).

APEC Concept Difficult To Materialize

BK2504170492 Jakarta ANTARA in English 0652 GMT 25 Apr 92

[Text] Jakarta, April 25 (ANTARA)—Two international political observers of the Surabaya-based Airlangga University (UNAIR) are of the view that the Australian concept for the establishment of a forum of the Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) is still difficult to materialize in the countries in the Asia Pacific region.

Asked about their opinion on Australian Prime Minister Paul J. Keating's visit to Indonesia, the two observers, Sujadino, M.A. and Ajar Setiarso, M.A., on Friday said that although the principle of cooperation could produce a positive impact on ASEAN in the trade sector, but because ASEAN, particularly Indonesia, was still not willing to accept the free trade system, the Australian concept would still be diffcult to materialize..

"The countries in Southeast Asia are at present obviously still attaching importance to ASEAN as an economic cooperation forum in the region", Sujadino, senior lecturer in international relations of UNAIR, said.

The Ohio University, U.S.A., graduate further said that Australia's foreign relations pattern under Keating's leadership was obviously more focused on wide-ranging relations with the countries in the Asia Pacific region.

"Taking into consideration that Indonesia is playing a strategic role in the Asia Pacific region, automatically the Australian Government would like to further boost its relations with Indonesia", he said.

In fact the Australian policy on closer relations with the Southeast Asian countries was started during Gough Whitlam's premiership in 1970, he added.

The Australian Government had since that year had the desire to play a foreign policy detached from that of the U.S.A. and Britain.

Various breakthroughs had been conducted by Australia as marked through the opening of diplomatic relations with the people's republic of China and Vietnam, while ASEAN received special attention.

Touching upon Keating who was estimated by international political observers as a reformer and democratic leader, Sujadino said that the reason was Keating's serious desire to see Australia take a fitting place among the Asian community.

Meanwhile Ajar Setiarso who is a lecturer in foreign political affairs at the UNAIR faculty of political and social sciences, said that Keating, different from the policy pattern of his predecessors, had been attempting to create a 'balance of power' in the Asian region.

To promote its APEC concept, Australia was of the view that Indonesia played a strategic role in the problem of economic cooperation as well as in safeguarding stability in the ASEAN region, Ajar Setiarso remarked.

Keating's Visit, Ties With Australia Viewed

BK2604043492 Jakarta Radio Republik Indonesia Network in Indonesian 0600 GMT 25 Apr 92

[From the press review]

[Text] SUARA KARYA notes the statement by the Australian prime minister that his visit to Indonesia has brought about a mutual understanding between the two countries and that Australia has become more conscious that it is located in the Asia-Pacific region. In view of this, Australia not only diverts its political role in the Asia-Pacific region, it is also adjusting its cultural outlook to be in harmony with its neighboring community. According to SUARA KARYA, this awareness will further strengthen Indonesia-Australia ties.

Speaking in the same voice, ANGKATAN BERSENJATA daily calls Premier Keating as the "most sensitive statesman" to world political and economic changes, including changes in the Asia-Pacific region. He is also ready to take advantage of the developments in the Asia-Pacific region that are turning the area into an important economic zone. The daily is confident that with President Suharto's futuristic outlook it is proper that the two countries work toward a deeper relationship, and be determined to broaden cooperation in various fields, including military ties.

Trade, Other Cooperation With Netherlands Wanted

BK2504170892 Jakarta ANTARA in English 0702 GMT 25 Apr 92

[Text] Rotterdam, April 25 (ANTARA)—Trade Minister Arifin Siregar invited Dutch firms to increase both their trade relations and investments as well in Indonesia in future.

The minister made the statement before participants of the Indonesian-Dutch trade meeting attended by 40 Indonesian and 35 Dutch businessmen held in the World Trade Center here Friday.

The one-day session which was officially opened by Rotterdam Mayor Bram Peper was also attended by Indonesian Ambasador to the Netherlands Professor Bintoro Jokroamijoyo, Chairman of the Amsterdam Indonesia House F. Deelmam, Chairman of the Indonesian Chamber of Commerce and Industry in Rotterdam, Professor Moechel and Chairman of the Indonesia-Netherlands Association (INA) Frans Seda.

During the meeting, the minister briefed the participants about the Indonesian business and investment climate which was considered.

He disclosed that the Indonesian gross domestic product annually grew between 7-7.5 percent in the 1989-1991 fiscal year.

He further said that the improvement of the Indonesian business climate was also reflected by the increasing investments both of domestic and foreign companies.

The total foreign investments which got approval increased from 1,097 in 1984 to 8.75 billion U.S. dollars in 1990, while in 1991 it was recorded at 8.778 billion U.S. dollars.

To promote the Indonesian products in foreign markets, Indonesia needs to organize several activities, including business tours, international trade exhibitions and exploring possibilities to establish cooperation with prospective foreign trade partners, he said.

So far, he added, the Indonesian-Dutch trade relations recently were considered more encouraged, reaching about 1.3 billion U.S. dollars in 1991, he revealed.

He said that the Indonesian non-oil commodities exported to several main foreign markets, in which the Netherlands ranked fifth in 1991 after Japan, the United States, Singapore and Germany.

At the end of March, Dutch investments in Indonesia totalled 2.2 billion U.S. dollars involving 93 projects, ranking the Netherlands as the sixth largest investor after Japan, Hong Kong, Taiwan, the United States and South Korea.

"We believe that the Dutch businessmen will expand their investment in Indonesia in a bid to get mutual benefit among the two countries," the minister said.

Regarding the possibilities of Indonesia to establish other cooperation with the Netherlands, the minister said that Indonesia wanted ties to be based on education, culture and tourism, besides trade and investment.

Philippines

Candidates Sign Accord on Clean Elections

HK2704054092 Manila THE CHRONICLE in English 27 Apr 92 pp 1, 6

[By Johanna Son—italicized passage published in Tagalog]

[Text] The seven presidential candidates signed yesterday in a televised ceremony a formal pledge to hold honest polls on May 11, to accept defeat graciously and to work for a "peaceful transfer" of power after the new president is proclaimed.

The manifesto also binds them to conduct a dignified campaign in the two-week homestretch to the elections, including a pledge to reject any attempt to take over the government or disrupt the polls, the counting of ballots and the winners' proclamation.

Eduardo Cojuangco, Salvador Laurel, Ramon Mitra, Fidel Ramos, Jovito Salonga, Miriam Santiago signed the manifesto at the end of a two-hour discussion sponsored by the Commission on Elections [Comelec].

The seventh candidate, Imelda Marcos, stayed away from the discussion but dropped by to sign the document before the show.

Comelec Commissioner Christian Monsod and five commissioners also signed the document, a landmark commitment in a country whose elections have often been violent and marred by fraud.

All of the candidates earlier said they did not see as a major problem the prospect of a minority president being elected on May 11, an issue that has stoked fears that candidates may not accept defeat graciously.

All six said they would accept defeat in a fair fight, and embark on reconciliation with defeated rivals and rebel groups.

The pledges made by the candidates, as "leaders of the Filipino people who might become President," are to:

—Commit to fair, honest and orderly elections and a "peaceful transfer of power."

—Condemn, reject and not cooperate in any attempt to take over the government or to disrupt the polls, prevent the proclamation of winners through force.

—Desist from "violence, terrorism, fraud," including vote-buying and black propaganda.

—Not to exploit politically motivated deaths for publicity purposes.

—Direct followers to remove illegal campaign propaganda.

—Help implement safeguards to protect the integrity of the ballot and assure the accuracy and authenticity of the unofficial Media-Citizens Quick Count and the official counts by canvassing boards.

—Guarantee that members of Congress who are their supporters or partymates will attend the convening of Congress on May 25, in order to canvass the results of the polls and proclaim the winners without delay.

—Accept the results of the elections graciously and cooperate with whoever wins, help unify the country after the polls and ensure the implementation of commitments in the manifesto.

"You make your own mandate," Mitra said in dismissing instability caused by a minority president-elect, while Salonga said the issue was not numbers but "moral ascendancy."

Cojuangco said it could pose problems, but that a minority vote would also test the candidate's leadership.

All pledged to reconcile with defeated contenders, with Salonga promising to convene a "peace council" in the first 100 days.

Yesterday's Comelec discussion had a different format, beginning with footage of candidates with their families and spouses, and their reactions to a segment profiling the poor Filipino through the life of 47-year-old Leyteno, Mang [Mr.] Pandoy.

Mang Pandoy had said that he was willing to be shot dead by a rich man who would give his family P100,000 [Philippine pesos] in exchange for a lot they could call their own.

Mitra pledged to launch a program of "jobs, jobs and jobs" even in the countryside, so that people like Mang Pandoy did not have to migrate to Metro Manila.

Santiago attributed poverty to Philippine politics' "corruption," Salonga to the unequal distribution of wealth and absence of genuine land reform, Cojuangco to the lack of an "institutionalized political party" and Laurel to a "failure of leadership" by the Marcos and Aquino governments.

Barbs flew at one point, although the discussion was not intended to be a debate, when Laurel said that Ramos and Mitra virtually blamed Mang Pandoy for his poverty.

Laurel added that Ramos' "big words" about "people empowerment" did not mean anything to the poor. Ramos retorted that since Laurel could not understand people empowerment, "I don't think he's fit to be president."

"How can he be a good leader when he can't even be a good follower?" Ramos asked, recalling that Laurel left President Aquino early in her government.

Despite host Randy David's effort to stop the exchange, Laurel said of Ramos: "*He was Marcos' No. 1 yes-man; and yet he stabbed him in the back during the Epifanio de Los Santos Avenue Revolution. He's the supreme turncoat.*"

The candidates were also asked what in their nearly three-month campaign around the Philippines struck them most. [end of report as published]

Sin Issues Further 'Guidelines' for Elections

HK2704043892 Manila PHILIPPINES NEWSDAY in English 25 Apr 92 pp 1, 2

[By Jose H. Macaspac III]

[Text] Jaime Cardinal Sin, the powerful head of the Manila archdiocese, yesterday issued another set of "guidelines" aimed at providing Catholic voters "with clear and convincing criteria" in choosing the nation's leaders in the coming elections. A Church statement [as published] said this now "narrows down to one the Catholic Church's presidential preference."

A press release of the Laban ng Demokratikong Pilipino [Struggle of Filipino Democrats] (LDP) immediately reported the Catholic lay leaders as saying the Sin guidelines indicated his preference for the Ramon V. Mitra-Marcelo Fernan tandem.

The press release added that the powerful Council of the Laity of the Philippines [CLP] had declared its support for the LDP presidential ticket. The CLP has five million members nationwide in 2,200 parishes all over the country.

Reacting for Malacanang, Press Secretary Horacio Paredes said Cardinal Sin was a "mite misguided," and repeated President Aquino's claim that her anointed presidential candidate Fidel V. Ramos had "redeemed himself seven times."

Mrs Aquino had earlier stated that Cardinal Sin's Easter pastoral letter that urged people not to vote for "oppressors and plunderers" of the Marcos regime did not include Ramos because "Ramos had redeemed himself."

Reacting to the homily, CLP President Antonio de los Reyes particularly commended the pro-life stand of Mitra and Fernan and their commitment to create jobs and improve the economy.

Interviewed after the mass, Reyes said the Mitra-Fernan team had a program that would implement the Catholic position.

Reyes said the Mitra-Fernan platform hewed closely to the position held by the overwhelming majority of Catholics in the country who comprise 87 percent of the 62-million population.

Reyes said for 18 years under former President Marcos and the six years of the Aquino administration, government resources for artificial birth control increased five times in spite of two papal edicts and the pastoral letters issued by the Church in the Philippines.

The "eight-point guidelines" announced by Sin in a sermon during a Mass for the Tanglaw ng Bayan [Light of the Nation] Movement at the Christ the King seminary practically shot down the Aquino administration's hopes of getting the Church's endorsement for its Protestant candidate, Ramos, who had been weakened by the religious issue against him.

Sin refused to directly name the presidential and vice presidential candidates he wanted his flock to support, saying he was not recommending anybody for the presidency since it would be an insult to the voters if he made such an endorsement.

But he made it clear in his homily that the Church was not supporting those who had been directly involved in the implementation of martial law of former President Marcos.

In his sixth criteria, Sin said "(the Catholic voters) must elect a president and vice president who have valiantly and openly stood in defense of the rule of law... and opposed the previous dictatorship and the institutions it created, including martial law."

Ramos, who was Constabulary chief during martial law, had been heavily criticized by his opponents for his participation in the Marcos regime.

In addition, Sin said the voters must elect a president and vice president who have:

1) the capability, proven in their personal and public careers, to respond to the country's pressing needs and to unify the nation;

2) clean hands, with no graft indictments and are free from charges of dishonest gain in either private and public enterprise;

3) a team of competent and committed professionals who will assist them;

4) compassion for the poor, who will stand for them and champion their cause, not exploit their needs;

5) intellectual honesty, emotional maturity and spiritual enlightenment and will keep and deliver on their promises or commitments;

6) the commitment to God's blessing of life and will put an end to the active promotion of mechanical and artificial devices of birth control; and

7) respect, within the context of the separation of Church and State, the Church's policy of "critical collaboration as an exercise of our spiritual roles."

Asked if his guidelines favored Mitra and Fernan, Sin said: "Be quiet."

It was, however, an affair prepared in coordination with Mitra's office. Only Mitra's press officers were present during the Mass and the "ambush" interview of Sin by the media.

Mitra, however, would not fit some of Sin's criteria considering charges that he acquired vast landholdings and ranches while in office, observers said.

In a statement, Sin said the next president should be a "compassionate unifier of the people, a healer of the nation's wounds, and an emotionally mature leader who stands up for the poor."

The statement said Sin issued the criteria "to amplify the message in the pastoral letter read in churches Easter Sunday," citing the need to express clearer and more concrete standards of discernment to guide each other [as published] into making enlightened voting decisions."

Senator Jovito Salonga immediately reacted to the Sin sermon.

Salonga said he was sure that Sin did not mean to exclude him as among the candidates. Sin was asking the electorate to vote for him since he (Salonga) fitted all of the guidelines set by the prelate.

Salonga said he might belong to another Christian denomination but he noted that Sin had excluded him from past criticisms against presidential candidates who belonged to the ruling coalition.

Salonga said Sin lashed at Mitra for the speaker's "under the table" deals.

Salonga added: "Cardinal Sin never said anything against me and I believe the members of the Church knows what he meant."

Criticized for Politicking

HK2704053092 Manila PHILIPPINES NEWSDAY in English 27 Apr 92 p 10

[Editorial: "Cardinal Sin—Accuser and Judge"]

[Text] Cardinal Sin's pastoral letter on Easter Sunday and his homily last Thursday at Christ the King Church have exposed the Catholic Church anew to criticism. This comes in the midst of ongoing attacks from religious fundamentalists who have been harping on the Church's straying from Jesus Christ's teachings.

The pastoral letter and the homily indeed seem to prove the point of the Church's critics. Two points are clearly communicated in both—Cardinal Sin is accusing some people of the past regime of plundering and looting and he is rendering his judgment that they are unworthy to be voted into public office. These points utterly contradict Christ's teachings summarized as charity: Love one another as I how [as published] loved you.

In many parables and instances of Christ's public ministry, this commandment was demonstrated again and again. But two specific circumstances seem to parallel Cardinal Sin's stance. One is the story of the woman "taken to adultery" whom Christ found being stoned in the street. Christians familiar with it would recall how

He stopped her accusers, admonishing them, "He who is without sin, cast the first stone."

The other story deals with the Gentile woman from whom Jesus asked for a drink. Again an adulteress, who tried to hide it, the woman was offered a drink of "the living water" by Christ.

What did Christ try to reach? Forgiveness and charity, the balms for spiritual illnesses of which He is the dispenser and which He passed on to his Church. There are laws of the state for which people can be tried for crimes allegedly committed by them. The Church then, if Jesus were heeded, must not take on the role of accuser and judge. By alluding to sinners and acting as both accuser and judge at the same time, in his pastoral letter and homily, Cardinal Sin bore little resemblance to a Vicar of Christ, which he should be.

Ramos Responds to Recent Sin Accusations

Defends Martial Law Role

HK2604072992 Hong Kong AFP in English 0618 GMT 26 April 92

[Text] Manila, April 26 (AFP)—Presidential candidate Fidel Ramos on Sunday [26 April] defended his role as martial law enforcer for late dictator Ferdinand Marcos, and hit back at Philippine church leader Jaime Cardinal Sin for campaigning against him.

"There is no reason for me to be remorseful," said Ramos, who was chief enforcer of martial law under Marcos from 1972-1981 before turning against him in a 1986 popular revolt.

Cardinal Sin, the spiritual leader of this largely Roman Catholic nation, on Friday urged his flock to reject candidates who had supported martial law and who promote artificial birth control methods. He also urged those who backed Marcos to repent by "forsaking the ambition to govern the country they so deeply wronged."

Ramos, a Protestant former military chief and defense secretary who has been endorsed by President Corazon Aquino, said during a news conference that he continued to work under Marcos during martial law "to lighten the harshness of the dictatorship."

He said that were it not for his joining a military mutiny against Marcos in 1986, "the dictatorship would have continued to this day."

Ramos conceded that Cardinal Sin's declaration "causes me some worry" but said it would not stop him from pursuing his candidacy. Asked if he feared losing the so-called Catholic vote, he said voters were "a little more mature and a little more sophisticated" than to vote on purely sectarian lines.

He also cited Sin's description of the relations between the church and the state as being like "two tracks on a railroad" that are joined but never meet. "It appears that at this point, he may have reached a crossing," he added.

Ramos announced that unidentified gunmen on Saturday murdered a congressional candidate and Ramos ally in the northern Philippines. Leonardo Matba, standing for election in Cagayan Province, was shot dead after the gunmen seized him and several supporters while they campaigned in the village of Western Amuyong, Ramos said. Ramos said he did not know who was responsible for the attack, which he said has left him with five supporters slain in the runup to the May 11 election.

Has 'Nothing to Regret'

HK2704031692 Manila DWIZ Voice of the Filipino People's Radio in Tagalog 2200 GMT 26 Apr 92

[Text] Fidel Ramos, Epifanio de los Santos Avenue's Strength-National Union of Christian Democrats presidential candidate, says he will not quit the presidential race. He said he has nothing to regret over his former role as constabulary chief during the martial law period under former President Marcos.

This was Ramos' response to the controversial statement by Manila's Jaime Cardinal Sin which said that former oppressors should renounce all plans to lead the nation. Last Friday, at a mass at Christ the King Church in Quezon City, Sin told the people not to support those candidates who kept silent during the Marcos dictatorship. The cardinal is believed to have been referring to Ramos.

Meanwhile, President Aquino defended the former defense secretary, saying he was the first to oppose the antidemocratic forces.

Aquino Accused of Using Relief Funds for Ramos

HK2704031892 Manila DWIZ Voice of the Filipino People's Radio in Tagalog 2200 GMT 26 Apr 92

[Text] The New Society Movement claims that President Aquino has been using government funds to back former Defense Secretary Fidel Ramos' candidacy. According to the party's vice presidential candidate Vicente Magsaysay, Mrs. Aquino has given land and 1.5 million pesos from the social welfare fund to more than 600 Aeta [tribal group] families who were displaced by the Pinatubo eruption. Magsaysay said that despite a clear injunction by the Supreme Court, the president continues to release public funds. He asked the Commission on Elections [Comelec] to take steps on the matter and to impose the proper sanctions. The former Zambales governor pointed out that a Comelec provision stipulates that the Philippine National Red Cross is to release all calamity funds; however, President Aquino's daughter, Kris, is releasing the funds.

Communist Group Warns Politicians About Cheating

HK2704080092 Manila PHILIPPINES NEWSDAY in English 25 Apr 92 pp 1, 2

[By Dario B. Agnote]

[Text] The National Democratic Front [NDF] yesterday warned unscrupulous traditional politicians, military and militiamen, warlords and heads of private armies to "desist from all manner of fraud and violence before, during and after" the May 11 polls, and warned it would use "all means at its disposal to protect the (interests of the) people."

At the same time, the NDF urged the Filipino people "to rely more on their organized strength and direct political actions to achieve their nationalist and democratic aspirations."

"The NDF cannot allow the people's interests to be trampled upon," read a two-page statement distributed by the NDF media bureau to newspaper organizations yesterday.

The NDF, the political arm of the banned Communist Party of the Philippines (CPP) whose armed wing is the New People's Army (NPA), commemorated its 19th founding anniversary yesterday, April 24, which it said was a "special occasion of rejoicing."

"The people have had enough of this electoral farce. The time has come for the people to rid this country of the United States-Aquino regime and all other reactionaries," declared the NDF statement.

The statement said the NDF, even if it could not participate in the forthcoming general elections, would respect the people's right of suffrage, but it urged the electorate to "choose candidates who would genuinely advance the masses' interests."

The clandestine communist front organization, however, cautioned the people that no substantial change could be expected from the May 11 electoral exercise.

"It is U.S. imperialism and its local puppets that will emerge as the sure winners. The fraud and violence that are integral to this bourgeois electoral process can only lead to the further subversion of the people's will and the entrenchment of reactionary rule. The post-election scenario promises added hardships and misery to the Filipino people."

This early [as published], the NDF pointed out that the sectors of society needed to be examined more closely. "Should the present elections fail to arrest the present crisis of the ruling classes and halt the revolution's advance, the U.S. and local reactionary factions have already laid contingency plans to change their rules to an open fascist form," it said.

The NDF cited reports about plans of administration presidential candidate Fidel V. Ramos and "other militarists" to mount a coup "or some other extra legal action" should the outcome of the elction be unfavorable to them. It also cited reports that renegade officers were again actively recruiting new members in preparation for a coup or similar actions should the elections be marred by fraud and violence.

The coming May 11 polls, it said, were "nothing but a design to determine which faction of the ruling class will dominate the reactionary system."

"The NDF could never participate in an electoral process where U.S. support and the combination of guns, goons and gold are decisive factors to ensure victory," said the statement. "Unless the monopoly of the big landlords, bourgeoisie and U.S. and foreign multinationals over the country's economy and politics is broken, no election can be genuinely expressive of the people's democratic will."

Need To Debate National Budget Stressed

HK2304032092 Manila THE CHRONICLE in English 23 Apr 92 p 4

[Editorial: "1993 Budget an Open Political Question"]

[Text] The Development Budget Coordination Committee has gone through the exercise of designing next year's budget.

According to the Committee, headed by Jesus Estanislao, the country can only afford a P322.7 billion [Philippine pesos] budget next year. That quoted ceiling is only 7% bigger than this year. With inflation factored in, the projected budget will be smaller than this year's. Funds available for investments in infrastructure will be much less, crippling government's ability to sustain high growth.

Estanislao, however, admits that government needs a budget of at least P345.6 billion. At this higher level, government will have to incur deficits amounting to P37.6 billion or well above the IMF-prescribed deficit limit of 2.6% of GNP. The spendthrift finance secretary has recommended that government maintain a deficit limit of P14.6 billion. He warns that the long-term costs to the economy of high deficit spending next year would be greater than all the jobs and the additional infrastructure that could be created by crossing the deficit barrier enforced on us by the IMF. That assertion is, of course, debatable.

The allocation details of the proposed 1993 budget will still have to be worked out and made public. But the tight ceiling projected by the Estanislao committee immediately indicates that there will not be enough money to allow government to play a pump priming role in economic growth. The committee in fact admits that the restrictive budget "implies a contraction in real terms of productive expenditures from P186.9 billion in 1992 to P177.1 billion in 1993 or 11.4% in real terms."

The projected budget is expected to dry up counterpart funding for foreign-assisted projects already underway. There will be no money to increase the salaries of public sector employees, standardize police pay, build new schools and hospitals and support activities of the Bases Conversion Development Authority.

The Estanislao budget is consistent with the conservative disposition of the Aquino administration's economic policies. This administration has abided loyally by the restrictions outlined for us by the IMF. It has scrupulously paid back our foreign debts. With restricted funds, this administration has chosen the easier way out: it has cut back on social services, postponed vital infrastructure projects and rejected pay increases for government personnel rather than prune down defense expenditure, bargain more aggressively on the foreign debt and dissolve unnecesssary agencies.

Should the Estanislao budget for 1993 be adopted by the next administration, economic growth will continue to be sluggish, vital infrastructure will remain on the drawing boards, unemployment will continue to be high and government workers will be even more demoralized than they are now. All these in the name of "fiscal restraint" and "stability." The next government will have to deal with rising discontent by means other than immediate economic alleviation. This can only spell greater repression.

The spectre of this government enforcing its conservative economic inclinations on the next one becomes a possibility only if the same cabal that now makes policy shall continue to be able to do so in the next term—and only if the incoming Congress will be either so pliant or so mystified by the conservative economists that they could not block a budget that strangulates the economy rather than stimulates growth.

Fortunately, next year's budget remains an open political question. Treated with the importance it deserves, the Estanislao budget ought to be a central point of debate in this lackadaisical electoral campaign. Explained in terms of its dire social implications, the proposed budget should suffice to inflame public passions.

The general consensus on the fundamental points among the leading candidates notwithstanding, the possibility for a new administration that is more hospitable to growth remains.

The new administration may use its fresh mandate to renegotiate with the IMF for a more generous medium-term plan. This new administration may also adopt a more aggressive debt strategy to free up funds from debt servicing and rechannel them to infrastructure. With a more imaginative revenue-generation scheme and a more adventurous attitude towards the deficit, it should be possible to simultaneously raise the budget ceiling and expand productive investments.

A pro-growth government, however, is not something that falls from the blue. It can only be the consequence of an explicit mandate given by a conscious electorate. That mandate can only emerge from a more enlightened debate in the last weeks of this campaign. The vote will have to go to the one who can liberate us from the fiscal terror that now hangs over our heads.

Thailand

Official: U.S. Trade Retaliation Can Be Avoided

BK2504025892 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 25 Apr 92 p 17

[Text] There is still room for the Thai Government to manoeuvre to prevent Thailand from being retaliated against by the U.S. under Section 301 provisions of the U.S. Trade Act, according to a senior Thai official.

Although there will not be any further investigation of patent protection in Thailand by the U.S. Trade Representative (USTR), further negotiations will take place, the outcome of which will determine whether Thailand will face retaliation, deputy Permanent Secretary for Commerce Kroekkrai Chiraphet said yesterday.

Thai authorities expect the U.S. will not remove Thailand from the priority foreign country designation list under Section 301 provisions of the 1974 Trade Act.

Contacted by Business Post to comment on the expected U.S. move, Mr Kroekkrai, who is in charge of trade negotiations, said he has not yet been officially informed of the USTR's decision.

"But we have expected that in advance, because they are not yet satisfied with some aspects of the patent law amendments and enforcement," he said.

"They are not happy with the patent law's retrospective enforcement over products in the pipeline, compulsory licensing or the establishment of the drug monitoring board to oversee drug price increases."

The U.S. was also unhappy with lack of action in Thailand against cassette tape and video tape pirates.

Mr Kroekkrai said it was now up to the Suchinda Government to deal with the issue.

"But I think there is room for the Government to manoeuvre in the upcoming negotiations with the USTR in order to prevent the country from being retaliated against."

Army Chief on Burmese Leader's Resignation

BK2504023292 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 25 Apr 92 pp 1,3

[Text] Army Commander-in-Chief Gen Itsaraphong Nunphakdi said yesterday that the resignation of Burmese junta leader Gen Saw Maung would not affect military relations between Thailand and Burma.

Gen Saw Maung, the former leader of the State Law and Order Restoration Council (SLORC), the ruling junta, has been replaced by army commander Gen Than Shwe.

Gen Than Shwe was also named new prime minister yesterday, according to Rangoon Radio.

Gen Itsaraphong said the change was Burma's internal affair and that the exchange of visits by the military leaders of the two countries would remain unaffected.

"We will visit Burma if there are invitations," the army chief said.

Meanwhile, Foreign Minister Pongphon Adireksan said it is too early to comment on the situation, which he described as an internal affair of Burma.

However, Thailand must closely monitor the situation, he stressed.

Mr Pongphon, who yesterday hosted a reception for the diplomatic corps at the Foreign Ministry, said he explained to the diplomats why Thailand had to adopt what is seen as a lenient attitude towards the repressive regime of Rangoon.

"As a close neighbour of Burma, we are faced with another set of circumstances," he said, adding that Bangkok-based diplomats have a full understanding of the Thai situation.

However, Burmese pro-democracy groups interviewed by the BANGKOK POST yesterday said that the leadership change in Burma, which they had expected for a long time, will not have much impact on them.

"It is just the change of one dictator to another, and oppression of the people will continue as always," said Foreign Minister Peter Limbin of the parallel government, the National Coalition Government of the Union of Burma [NCGUB].

The NCGUB had long expected to hear the news about Gen Saw Maung stepping down as SLORC's chairman, he said.

"The Burmese military dictatorship will continue in Burma and we will continue our fight to topple this dictatorship," he said.

Mr Limbin, who just returned to his headquarters after extensive tours of European countries, said the NCGUB also heard about an internal power struggle within the Rangoon junta, which has ruled the country with an iron fist since 1988.

He predicted that SLORC is heading towards disintegration.

However, Chairman of the Kachin Independence Organisation M. Brang Seng expressed cautious optimism that the new leadership may start doing good things for Burma.

"This is the right time for Gen Saw Maung, who killed thousands of innocent people, to retire," Brang Seng said.

"From today on, the new leaders of SLORC will find a proper way to bring peace to all ethnic populations," he said.

The Kachin leader also hoped that this may be the time when "the younger generation of Burma will be able to enjoy freedom, democracy, and peace. They will have human dignity as Burmese among the international community," he said.

He said he believed that Saw Maung's leadership had destroyed Burma and that other leaders of SLORC had learned the lesson that peace in Burma would require understanding and sincere cooperation with the ethnic population at this crucial time.

The New Mon State Party's [NMSP] spokesman Nai Kasauh Mon told the BANGKOK POST that Gen Than Shwe played a key role in the operations that spurred the exodus of thousands of Burmese Muslims from Arakan state to Bangladesh.

"This man will carry on with the suppression of people inside Burma, especially the ethnic groups," said the spokesman who is the close aide of NMSP President, Nai Shwe Kyin.

A Karen National Union [KNU] officer said the Karens hold strong to the idea of fighting the SLORC.

KNU leader Gen Bo Mya was yesterday presiding over a conference of the Democratic Alliance of Burma (DAB) which is an umbrella organisation of various anti-Rangoon forces.

The Karens believed that although Gen Than Shwe is the SLORC chairman and also the Burmese prime minister or head of Burma's ruling junta, the real power rests with Maj-Gen Khin Nyunt, a protege of strongman Gen Ne Win.

A foreign affairs officer of the All Burma Students Democratic Front (ABSDF) Aung Myint said Gen Than Shwe, who served as Saw Maung's deputy for years, will certainly follow the path of his predecessor

In this context, SLORC will try to hold on to power as long as it can.

Changes, should there be any, will come from junta members inside SLORC.

"It is reported that there is a rift in the junta and we expected to see more developments in the future," he said.

Commerce Ministry Plans New Foray Into Indochina

BK2404031192 Bangkok THE NATION in English 24 Apr 92 p B1

[Text] The Commerce Ministry is planning a new move to penetrate the Indochinese markets after Thailand's trade with the region reportedly slowed down during the formation of the new government.

M R Pridiyathon Thewakun, deputy commerce minister, said he has ordered the Business Economics Department to compile information about each of the three Indochinese countries—Laos, Cambodia, and Vietnam—for use as a guideline in planning Thai trade strategies for the region.

The data to be collected includes lists of goods to be promoted, value of the products, trade problems and potential markets, according to Pridiyathon.

The project, he said, also covers countries other than the three Indochinese nations, so that Thailand can have all necessary information at hand to adjust its trade policies to change in the world market.

The Commerce Ministry can also use the data to penetrate new markets under its export promotion plan, according to Pridiyathon.

He said the compilation of the new lists of Thai trade partners will be completed by the end of this month.

As for Indochina in particular, Pridiyathon said the ministry will continue to promote Thai exports to the region through trade missions which will strengthen trade relations and familiarize themselves with their trade partners there.

He added that the Commerce Ministry is closely monitoring the economic recession in Thailand's major trade partners, including Japan and Germany, to prepare solutions to possible impact on Thai exports.

Swiss Planes Delivered; More Purchases Planned

BK2504111992 Bangkok NAEO NA in Thai 21 Apr 92 p 3

[Text] Speaking to newsmen after presiding over the ceremony to accept delivery of the 20 Swiss-made PC9 training aircraft, Air Chief Marshal [ACM] Kaset Rotchananin, the supreme commander and Air Force commander, said the Air Force actually wants to buy 30 such aircraft but due to budget limitations was able to buy only 20 at 90 million baht each. He said the per-hour training expense will be cut nearly in half compared to the training aircraft currently in use.

Kaset said the Air Force has a plan to buy the light attack L39 aircraft from Czechoslovakia. Deputy Air Force Commander ACM Suthep Theprak is the chairman of the procurement committee. The Air Force wants to buy 50 L39s but budget limitations led the government to approve the purchase of only 30. In any event, to meet the Air Force modernization plan, the Air Force has already signed a contract for an additional 12 L39s in order to replace its A-37s, B-33s, and OV-10. Payment will not be drawn from the government's budget.

The Air Force spent 2,219,368,140 baht to buy the 20 PC9s. The purchasing committee was formed on 24 September 1990. The Defense Ministry approved the committee's proposal to buy the 20 PC9s from Pilatus Aircraft of Switzerland. The delivery was completed on 15 March this year and the planes have been assigned to the Kamphaeng Saen Flying School in Nakhon Pathom Province.

Sihanouk Congratulates Suchinda on Premiership

BK2304143692 Bangkok Army Television Channel 5 in Thai 1230 GMT 23 Apr 92

[Text] The Foreign Ministry reported that Prince Norodom Sihanouk, in his capacity as state leader and chairman of the Cambodian Supreme National Council, has sent a congratulatory message to Prime Minister General Suchinda Khraprayun on his appointment by the royal command to assume an important position in government and wished him success in performing his duty as the leader of the government of the Kingdom of Thailand. Prince Norodom Sihnouk also praised Gen. Suchinda for his patriotism and regards him as a great friend of Cambodia and the Cambodian people.

Prime Minister's Office Ministers Given Duties

BK2304022592 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 23 Apr 92 p 3

[Text] Prime Minister Suchinda Khraprayun yesterday assigned responsibilities to eight Prime Minister's Office ministers.

He also called on all ministers to meet their pledge given to His Majesty the King that they would carry out their duties conscientiously, and to have confidence in him as leader of the Government.

—Samakkhi Tham member Mai Sirinawakun will take charge of the National Youth Bureau and National Statistics Office.

Samakkhi Tham member Chatchawan Chomphudaeng will take charge of the Electricity Generating Authority.

Mr Chatchawan said he would seek to minimise any impact on the environment caused by energy development projects such as the construction of dams.

Chat Thai member Kon Thapparangsi will take charge of the National Energy Policy Board and Technical Economic Cooperation Department.

Chat Thai member Suchon Champhun will take charge of the National Education Board and Mass Communications Organisation.

Chat Thai member Watthana Atsawahem will take charge of the Sports Authority and Zoological Organisation.

Social Action member Piyanat Watcharaphon will take charge of the Office of the Permanent Secretary to the Prime Minister's Office and Public Relations Department.

Ratsadon member Chaiphak Siriwat will take charge of the Tourism Authority.

Non-elected minister Thinnaphan will take charge of the Secretariat of the Prime Minister's Office, Budget Bureau and National Economic and Social Development Board.

The Prime Minister has assigned his secretary-general to draft a policy statement for the Government, possibly for delivery in Parliament next week.

Army Commander-in-Chief Gen Itsaraphong Nunphakdi yesterday asked the Opposition and public to give the Government a chance to do its job, saying there should only be constructive criticism.

Mr Piyanat said Gen Suchinda had insisted that his Cabinet was honest because the Opposition was expected to keep the Government in check.

He called on the Opposition to give the Government a chance to perform.

Deputy Prime Minister Samak Sunthorawet said the policy statement may be sent to Parliament next Wednesday and would include each coalition member's individual policy.

Deputy Prime Minister and Education Minister Sombun Rahong said he would forward the Chat Thai Party's policy to Gen Suchinda today, and Deputy Prime Minister Montri Phongphanit said the Social Action Party would do likewise.

Mr Montri said Social Action would push for action on farm debt, the building of hospitals in remote areas and a ministerial regulation making tambon [subdistrict] councils a juristic body with their own income and administration.

Deputy Premiers Named To Government Committees

BK2304020592 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 23 Apr 92 p 3

[Text] Prime Minister Suchinda Khraprayun yesterday appointed his five deputies to chair various government committees.

—Deputy Prime Minister Michai Ruchuphan is chairman of the Juridical Commission, the Civil Servants Commission and the Office of the Narcotics Control Board.

—Deputy Prime Minister and Samakkhi Tham leader Narong Wongwan is chairman of the International Economic Relations Policy Committee, the Export Promotion Board and the Farmers Aid Policy and Measures Committee.

—Deputy Prime Minister and Chat Thai leader Sombun Rahong is chairman of the National Education Board, the State Land Encroachment Committee, the Agricultural and Industrial Exhibition Committee and the National Women Promotion Committee.

—Deputy Prime Minister and Social Action leader Montri Phongphanit is chairman of the National Environment Board, the Atomic Energy for Peace Committee and the National Technology Services Promotion Board.

—Deputy Prime Minister and Prachakon Thai leader Samak Sunthorawet is chairman of the Land Traffic System Committee, the National Disaster Prevention Boad and the Consumer Protection Committee.

The Prime Minister, meanwhile, also appointed his Council of Economic Ministers to take charge of the Government's economic affairs.

The council is headed by Gen Suchinda himself with the Cabinet secretary-general serving as secretary.

The deputy prime ministers, finance, agriculture, communications, industry, commerce and science ministers were all appointed members of the council.

New Cabinet Set To Reverse Deregulation Policies

BK2404032792 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 24 Apr 92 p 17

[Text] Three more economic ministers yesterday announced key policies which could overturn measures introduced by previous governments and appeared to be in conflict with the approach of the Prime Minister's economic advisers.

Within two days of taking office, three of the five Suchinda Government economic ministers announced the policies of the previous government would be "reviewed."

Only the Finance Ministry, to which Suthi Singsane was reappointed minister, will maintain the previous government's policies, while Transport and Communications Minister Banhan Sinlpa-acha has not yet announced plans to review his predecessors's policies.

But Mr Banhan has announced a plan to invest more than 120,000 million baht in building roads in the metropolitan and suburban areas as well as in major cities.

If the policies are reviewed and changed, regulations removed by the Anan government will be reintroduced. That appears to be in conflict with the approach of Prime Minister Suchinda Khraprayun's economic advisory board, which is chaired by one of the key architects of the Anan government's deregulation policies, former deputy Finance Minister Wirabong Ramangkun.

Commerce Minister Anuwat Wattanaphongsiri yesterday announced that all of his predecessor's policies will be reviewed.

The first policy to be reviewed is likely to be the unrestricted pig and pork import policy introduced by the Anan government shortly before the general election.

The Anan government also lifted controls on retail pork prices, but Dr Anuwat said he was considering reintroducing price controls to stabilise retail prices at 60 baht a kilo.

If controlled prices—which he called standard prices—were introduced, unrestricted imports of pigs and pork would be banned. Dr Anuwat said the free import policy would undermine attempts to develop the local livestock industry.

Agriculture Minister Phinit Chantharasurin said the programme under which land was allocated to poor farmers would be reviewed, particularly the process by which residents were removed from areas to be allocated.

But whether the programme would be dissolved depended on the Cabinet, he said.

Mr Phinit denied reports that he would lift the ban on logging. "In fact, this government will continue to implement the ban," he said.

Earlier, Industry Minister Somphong Amonwiwat said the industry liberalisation policy would be reviewed industry by industry. Regulations would be reintroduced for industries which had been affected by liberalisation.

The policy deregulating establishment of car assembly plants, in particular, would be reviewed. Mr Somphong believed supply was currently higher than demand, so the policy would hurt existing plants.

Under Mr Banhan's road construction plan, the number of traffic lanes on suburban roads would be increased to four while city roads would have 10 lanes.

Commenting on the controversial one-million-line telephone project, Mr Banhan said he would urge the Telephone Organisation of Thailand to speed up its selection of the winning bidder.

Ex-Chief: Charter Allows Suchinda To Be Premier

BK2404013592 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 24 Apr 92 p 3

[Text] Former National Peace-keeping Council [NPKC] chairman Gen Sunthon Khongsomphong yesterday backed the legitimacy of Gen Suchinda Khraprayun's appointment as prime minister under the Constitution.

Gen Sunthon said the Constitution allowed for the appointment of Gen Suchinda even though he had not contested the general election.

The Opposition parties have been highly critical of Gen Suchinda's appointment on the grounds that he had not won the people's mandate.

Gen Sunthon dismissed criticisms that Gen Suchinda's appointment as the country's 19th premier was an NPKC ploy to retain power.

However, he refused to criticise the Opposition for seeking constitutional amendments requiring an elected premier, a reduction in the number of senators from 75 percent (270) of the total number of Lower House members to 33.3 percent (120), and to have the House Speaker act as Parliamentary President.

Gen Sunthon also refused to comment on predictions by elder statesman M.R. Khukrit Pramot that there would be another coup within five months.

"I no longer have the power to stage another coup," he said.

The fact Gen Suchinda and some other Cabinet ministers are former NPKC members meant he did not have to worry about the Government's stability, he said.

Suchinda 'Confident' of Ability To Run Country

BK2504025492 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 25 Apr 92 p 1

[Text] Prime Minister Suchinda Khraprayun is confident he can administer the country with good results, despite a strong campaign by opposition parties and democracy groups against his administration.

In Surin Province at the end of a two day tour of drought-stricken areas, Gen Suchinda told reporters he has no worries about his coalition's stability.

He asked, however, that opposition parties keep their activities against the Government within Parliament.

The Government is ready to answer any motion in Parliament even though it has not actually started working yet.

"I think I am a strong prime minister who can maintain peace and order in the country. I reaffirm here that I am confident of being able to administer the country well."

He said the stock market has already begun to recover, which indicates investors' confidence in the political climate, and this will lead to an improvement in the economic situation.

Politicians who are manoeuvring in various ways will have to show their sincerity in wanting to help solve the country's problems, he said.

"Both the Government and the Opposition share the common goal to help develop the country so they (Opposition politicians) should think whether or not what they are engaging in is wrong.

"I am trying to help bring development to rural areas.

"But if attempts are still made to create confusion in the country, any person who devotes himself to such a cause will be discouraged," said Gen Suchinda, who added he still believes he can solve the problem.

He emphasised the Government will not resort to forceful measures to deal with people who oppose his administrastion.

"I do not support the use of violence," he said.

Turning to the situation of hunger striker Chalat Worachat, who is staging a sit-in in front of Parliament to protest against Gen Suchinda's appointment, the Premier said the Cabinet disagrees with a suggestion in some quarters that he personally visit the man to persuade him to give up fasting.

Premier Suchinda said the Cabinet believes such a visit will be of no use because Mr Chalat is determined to continue the hunger strike.

Mr Chalat has been without solid food for 17 days.

Premier Suchinda said Minister Phiyanat Watcharapon of the Prime Minister's Office has offered to visit Mr Chalat to try to persuade him to call off the hunger strike, reasoning that he knows the man personally.

The Premier said, however, he may decide to visit Mr Chalat if or when he thinks that such a visit will help save the politician's life.

"I am glad to help save the life of everyone, not just Mr Chalat," he said.

Asked to state what will happen if Mr Chalat dies, Gen Suchinda said:

"We can only feel regret. But I don't think this will turn into a big problem. This is a personnel matter. I don't think many people agree with him."

Mr Phiyanat claimed Mr Chalat has been influenced by others who are using him as a political tool.

"I am concerned at this. Because from now on, anybody who is dissatisfied with the Prime Minister will go on a hunger strike.

"If we are to accept this, we'd better amend the Constitution to make it compulsory for the prime minister to resign whenever somebody stages a hunger protest against him," Mr Phiyanat said.

Army Chief: No Coup Against Suchinda Expected

BK2504030892 Bangkok THE NATION in English 25 Apr 92 p A2

[Excerpt] Army Commander in Chief Gen Itsaraphong Nunphakdi said yesterday there would be no coup against Prime Minister Gen Suchinda Khraprayun because the new administration would be stable.

Itsaraphong, who is Suchinda's brother-in-law and his key military supporter, also rejected a call by a well-known academic for Supreme Commander ACM [Air Chief Marshal] Kaset Rotchananin to clarify his earlier statement that a coup d'etat would be seen as the military's last option if the country was on the verge of turmoil.

"There is nothing to explain as that (stability) is understood," said Itsaraphong.

Itsaraphong cautioned those demonstrating against the unelected prime minister not to create any disorder at this time.

A Thammasat University anthropologist, Thirayut Bunmi, submitted a letter to ACM Kaset on Thursday urging him to specify the degree of violence and under what circumstances he would judge that the country was in turmoil and a coup necessary.

Thirayut, a former student leader during the 1973 student uprising, also asked Kaset to say who would be the decision-maker of the coup.

Kaset said earlier that he could not give his word that there would not be a coup while Suchinda is premier.

Former prime minister M.R. Kukhrit Pramot predicted that the Suchinda administration would be toppled by a coup within 10 months.

Meanwhile, Armed Forces chief of Staff ACM Phisit Salikhrup said he did not think a coup would occur in the future as the country is now enjoying peace and order.

Asked to comment on Kaset's refusal to give his word that there would not be a coup, Phisit said it is the duty of the Armed Forces to restore peace and order if there is turmoil in the country.

He also said the military cannot stage a coup if they received no support from the people. "How can the military resist the wish of the masses," he added.

He said the people had never protested a coup in the past. "They gave us bouquets to show their moral support to the military in staging coups," he added. [passage omitted]

Papers on Opposition Activities Against Premier

BK2604101392

[Editorial Report] The Thai papers THAI RAT and NAEO NA on 26 April carry comments on the current political situation—the public demonstration organized by the opposition parties against the Suchinda government and the remarks by certain political figures about a possible abrupt end to the government.

The page-three THAI RAT article by the "THAI RAT political team," entitled "Stop Making Coup Threats," refers to remarks by Supreme Commander Air Chief Marshal Kaset Rotchananin; Buncha Atthakon, adviser to the National Peace-Keeping Council [NPKC]; and M.R. Khukrit Pramot about possibilities of a coup or dissolution of parliament, saying: "The THAI RAT political team asks the people concerned to let the country run its course undisturbed. We are not happy with the way General Suchinda advanced to the premiership and will remain unhappy until he leaves his seat. But we realize that because Gen. Suchinda receives the voluntary support of five parties, because he has been officially appointed by the royal command and because he has taken an oath of office, all of us should rid ourselves of the nagging dissatisfaction and let the government perform its administrative tasks." Continuing, the article says: "We strongly criticize the senior personalities whose remarks—about the possibility of a coup in five or 10 months, about parliament dissolution, and about his declining to guarantee against a military coup—have caused the political situation to deteriorate," adding that the remarks amount to "an intimidation by the people who have the guns to protect their darling Gen. Suchinda and enable him to hold onto the premier seat untouched."

The THAI RAT article goes on to say: "Thailand has been in a decline ever since the NPKC staged the coup; let's us not poison it any further. The government's duty now is to quickly restore democracy to create confidence among the Thai people and foreign investors and businessmen. The world has advanced a great deal and we must catch up. Let's refrain from any more coups, and we warn that if there were to be another coup, people would not be as docile as they were on 23 February 1991."

Concluding, the article says: "The opposition parties have carried out their glorious duty by proposing an amendment to the Constitution to make it democratic. If the powerholders really care for the country and the democratic ruling system they should use the tools under their control, including the partisan members of parliament and the senators, to facilitate the amendment. If they do, they will be displaying a great sacrifice for the country."

The page-three NAEO NA editorial, entitled "Play by the Rules or Outside the Rules," refers to remarks by certain military leaders that categorize the anti-Suchinda demonstration staged by the opposition parties as "playing outside the rules." The editorial comments: "There is no definition in the Constitution of when an action is within or outside the rules. But Gen. Suchinda and Gen. Itsaraphong once said that rallies which did not create confusion or negatively affect liberty or freedom of others were acceptable. Therefore, it can be assumed that the opposition-organized demonstration, which was joined and supported by tens of thousands of people, is really not illegitimate. It was merely a game played outside the rules. However, no one has commented so far whether Chalat Worachat is playing within or outside the rules by staging his current hunger strike."

Vietnam

Reportage on Visit by Singapore's Lee Kuan Yew

Received by Vo Van Kiet

BK2404161392 Hanoi VNA in English 1515 GMT 24 Apr 92

[Text] Hanoi VNA April 24—Lee Kuan Yew, former prime minister and now senior minister of Singapore, arrived here yesterday afternoon for a visit and to attend a seminar on economy of Vietnam at the invitation of Chairman of the Council of Ministers Vo Van Kiet.

Lee Kuan Yew was accompanied by his wife, and Brigadier General George Yeo, minister for information and the arts, Lim Heng Kiang, minister of state for national development, and other officials.

Lee Kuan Yew and his party were welcomed at the presidential palace by Chairman Vo Van Kiet and his wife Do Quoc Sam, chairman of the State Planning Commission; Dau Ngoc Xuan, chairman of the State Committee for Cooperation and Investment; Le Van Triet, minister of trade and tourism; Vu Khoan, deputy foreign minister; and Le At Hoi, mayor of Hanoi; and other officials.

Chairman Vo Van Kiet expressed his hope that the visit would bring about a new development in the relations between Vietnam and Singapore.

Lee Kuan Yew thanked Chairman Vo Van Kiet for his warm welcome and said he believed that his first visit to Vietnam would be useful and would contribute to a better mutual understanding and cooperation between the two countries.

This morning, Lee Kuan Yew and his party called at the seminar on economy of Vietnam, and were warmly received by Vice Chairman of the Council of Ministers Nguyen Khanh.

Lee Kuan Yew said the hoped that the seminar would draw valuable experiences for the cause of socio-economic development in Vietnam.

Received by Do Muoi

BK2404160592 Hanoi VNA in English 1533 GMT 24 Apr 92

[Text] Hanoi VNA April 24—Do Muoi, general secretary of the Communist Party of Vietnam Central Committee, this afternoon received Lee Kuan Yew, former prime minister and now senior minister of Singapore, and his party currently on visit to Vietnam.

Vu Khoan, deputy foreign minister, was present at the reception. Party General Secretary Do Muoi praised Lee Kuan Yew's visit to Vietnam as a contribution to peace, stability and development in the region, and as a good chance to exchange experiences with Vietnam in socio-economic management and development.

He informed Lee Kuan Yew of the main points of the renovation process in Vietnam, and stressed that though facing some difficulties in switching the economy from its old mechanism to the market conditions, Vietnam, with its determination and persistent efforts and with assistance from and cooperation with other countries, particularly those in the region, will certainly achieve its noble objective.

General Secretary Do Muoi highly appreciated Singapore's achievements and experiences in economic building and development, and expressed his hope that Lee Kuan Yew would share his experiences with Vietnam, describing this as a contribution to the coperation between Singapore and Vietnam for the prosperity of the countries in the region.

For his part, Lee Kuan Yew reviewed the successes and failures in the socio-economic development of some countries in the region and the world. He stressed that each country, each nation must have its own way in building and developing its economy. He said he was ready to share with Vietnam the experiences obtained by Singapore in socio-economic development over the past decades.

He also said the two countries should exchange visits by specialist's groups to help each other in economic development. Referring to the situation in the region, he affirmed that there is no reason why the countries in the region should not help and cooperate with one another, because he said only in peace can they build prosperous countries. He wished the Vietnamese people great success in national construction.

Addresses Banquet Hosted by Kiet

BK2604095792 Singapore THE STRAITS TIMES in English 25 Apr 92 p 1

[By Han Fook Kwang]

[Text] Hanoi—The Vietnamese, especially those in the north, must change their way of thinking if they want economic success, Mr. Lee Kuan Yew said last night.

Speaking at a state banquet in honour of his visit, the Senior Minister said the quickest way to do this was to use those in the south, who were more attuned to the free market, to transfer their habit of thinking to the rest of the country.

"In your battle for the economy, I think many northerners should go south, learn how they think, how they work, how they maximise economic benefits, and then take it back north," he said.

He argued that they should include not only managers and officials, but also workers and supervisors.

"Bring them down, let them interact, it will be quicker."

He pointed out that, in the same way, Guangdong and Fujian provinces were growing faster than the rest of China because the Cantonese in Guangdong had learned by interacting with Hong Kongers and the people of Fujian with the Taiwanese.

In wishing his host success in their endeavour, he said: "The best help I can give is to explain and to get you to understand that it is not changing mechanisms which is what I've heard so often in the last two days, but changing the way of thinking."

Singapore businessmen, he noted, were keener to invest in the South of Vietnam because they found the southerners quicker to respond to incentives than their northern counterparts.

Earlier in his dinner speech, he said he had become even more diffident about giving advice to the country because from the reports he had heard, the World Bank and the IMF were already giving it all the right advice on macroeconomic problems.

His value, he added, was not in giving the Vietnamese the same advice, but to point out the options available and the costs involved in taking one course of action as against another.

Pointing to the Singapore experience, he said he sometimes had to delay or postpone a course of action recommended by the World Bank or the IMF because of political constraints.

But he had found out that however he zig-zagged, in the end, to maximise and optimise Singapore's economy, he had to apply certain basic principles.

These he listed as having a budget surplus every year, an appreciating currency and a high domestic savings rate.

But he added that these favourable conditions would not last forever and Singaporeans now wanted the government to spend more.

Indeed, he noted, the government was under pressure to give way, and to give more. But he warned that once it went in the opposite direction, the country would go back to where it was—budget deficits, inflation, depreciating currency, and all the accompanying problems.

In his banquet address, Prime Minister Vo Van Kiet declared his government's commitment to the economic reforms, to opening the country to foreign investors, to learning from others and to retraining its party cadres to the new approach.

On Mr. Lee's assessment of the country, he said he was deeply impressed, particularly with the Senior Minister's straightforwardness. The advice, he added, was of great strategic importance.

Mr. Lee, who is on the second day of a five-day visit, attended a seminar on Vietnam's reform programmes yesterday morning.

He introduced Mr. I.F. Tang, a former chairman of the Economic Development Board, who was one of the members of the United Nations Development Programme team which gave Singapore economic advice 30 years ago. Mr. Tang delivered a paper on Singapore's economic policies.

In the afternoon, Mr. Lee met Vietnam's senior ministers and called on Vietnamese Communist Party secretary-general Do Muoi.

Mr. Lee and his delegation will visit the ancient imperial capital Hue today before flying to Ho Chi Minh City.

Lee, Kiet Hold Second Round of Talks

BK2604110792 Singapore THE STRAITS TIMES in English 25 Apr 92 p 2

[By Han Fook Kwang]

[Text] Hanoi—Singapore shared its experience in economic development with Vietnam's top policy-makers twice yesterday: once at a closed door discussion and again at a seminar on the country's economic reform programme.

Senior Minister Lee Kuan Yew had a second round of discussions with the country's top brass, including its three deputy prime ministers, Mr. Phan Van Khai, Mr. Tran Duc Luong and Mr. Nguyen Khanh.

A Singapore spokesman said that Mr. Lee responded to their request on Thursday for his views on how Vietnam could develop its trade and industry, telecommunications, and its banking and stock exchange system.

Also on the agenda during the 1-1/2 hour meeting was a discussion on economic ties between the two countries.

Earlier, at a seminar at the National Assembly building, ministers and their deputies heard Mr. I.F. Tang, ex-chairman of the Economic Development Board, talk about Singapore fundamental economic policies, and what it took to make them work.

Although he did not say that Vietnam should follow the same path, he prefaced his paper by saying that he had highlighted only those aspects that were relevant to the seminar, which were on managing Vietnam's economic reform programme.

The seminar was organised by the United Nations Development Programme [UNDP] and the World Bank. Mr. Tang was introduced to them by Mr. Lee as having been part of a UNDP team which came to Singapore 30 years ago to give economic advice, and so was eminently suited to address them.

In his short introductory remarks, Mr. Lee noted that Singapore did not follow all of the UNDP recommendations as it had to marry the theory with the economic and political realities of the country.

Mr. Tang, who is now chairman of Wearnes Brothers, listed these policies as:

—Having a free market system, driven mainly by the private sector, with the government's role being to make Singapore one of the easiest places to do business;

—Plugging into the world economy by encouraging foreign investment and having an open and free trading sytem;

—Institutionalising a meritocratic system to motivate workers to give their best and providing equal opportunities in education; and

—Maintaining a clean and honest administration.

As for what it took to make these policies work, he mentioned getting the people's support for the government's programmes, establishing a legal system conducive to business and developing efficient infrastructures in transport and communications.

These are issues that are close to the hearts of policy makers here as they grapple with the problem of transforming their centrally planned economy into a more market responsive one.

In an interview with the Singapore press before the seminar, the head of the country's investment committee said that the country was now trying to find a new economic model to follow.

Mr. Dau Ngoc Xuan, Chairman of the state commission for co-operation and investment, said Vietnam attached great importance to learning from the experiences of others, although it realised that each country had its unique set of circumstances.

Asked whether it was also looking beyond economics and into political models, he said that while each country was different, Vietnam would study all of them to see if there were specific aspects in each which were suitable for its own purposes.

On how Mr. Lee's visit could help in its search for answers, he noted that the Senior Minister had a wealth of experience to share, having been at the helm of Singapore's rapid development.

In the afternoon, Mr. Lee, who was into the second day of his five-day visit, met Prime Minister Vo Van Kiet for a second round of discussions.

He later called on the general-secretary of the Vietnamese communist party, Mr. Do Muoi. Speaking to reporters after the call, Mr. Muoi described Mr. Lee's visit as a great success. "I am fully convinced that after this visit relations between Singapore and Vietnam will develop successfully," he said.

He noted that even though the visit was a very short one, "his substantive discussions with Vietnamese officials would have a positive outcome on the country. "His visit a clear manifestation of peace, stability, co-operation, friendship and development not only for the two countries but also for the region." he said.

Leaves for Hue, Ho Chi Minh City

BK2604155792 Hanoi VNA in English 1458 GMT 26 Apr 92

[Text] Hanoi VNA April 26—Former Singaporean Prime Minister Lee Kuan Yew left Hanoi yesterday for a visit to the imperial city of Hue and Ho Chi Minh City.

Earlier on April 24 he met with Premier Vo Van Kiet who said that since his visit to Singapore late last year the relations of cooperation between Vietnam and Singapore has fast developed in many fields—air service, navigation, investment, and trade—in the interests of the two countries and of peace, friendship, stability and cooperation in the region.

For his part, Lee Kuan Yew said Singapore is ready to share with Vietnam its experience in the construction of infrastructures, the management of airports and sea ports, and the construction of trade and service centres; he suggested ways to develop the relations between the two countries and to build the strategy and modality of economic development in Vietnam; he also gave some pieces of advice to Vietnam's macro-economic management, educational development and training. In five years, he said, Vietnam will witness a fast economic growth and will certainly obtain successes in its cause, in spite of numerous difficulties and new trials.

The same day, Lee Kuan Yew and other Singaporean guests were feted by Premier Vo Van Kiet.

Le Quang Dao Delegation Concludes Visit to Japan

BK2504174192 Hanoi VNA in English 1616 GMT 25 Apr 92

[Text] Hanoi VNA April 25—A delegation of the National Assembly led by its Chairman Le Quang Dao concluded today a week-long official visit to Japan.

During its stay there, the delegation called on Emperor Akihito, Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa, Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Michio Watanabe, Speaker of the House of Representatives Sakarauchi Yoshio, Speaker of the House of Councillors Yuri Osda, and others. Chairman Le Quang Dao conveyed the greetings of Party General Secretary Do Muoi, President of the State Council Vo Chi Cong, and Chairman of the Council of Ministers Vo Van Kiet to the Japanese leaders. The delegation also met with Vice-Chairman of the Japanese Communist Party (JCP) Tachiki Hiroshi and conveyed the greetings of Party General Secretary Do Muoi and former party general secretary Nguyen Van Linh to the leaders of the JCP.

It had working sessions with some committees of the Japanese House of Representatives and toured several economic and cultural establishments in Japan. On April 21, it attended a reception given by Speaker of the House of Representatives Sakarauchi Yoshio.

In his contacts, Chairman Le Quang Dao welcomed and highly appreciated Japan's positive efforts for peace and prosperity in the region, and said he hoped his visit would contribute to strengthening the friendship and cooperation between the two countries for their own interests, and for peace, stability and development in Asia and the world.

The Japanese leaders highly valued the achievements recorded by the Vietnamese people in the renovation process and welcomed Vietnam's open-door policy of cooperating with all countries, especially the countries in the region. They also expressed their wishes that the friendship and cooperation between Japan and Vietnam would be further developed.

Minister, Delegation Received by PRC Leaders

BK2504180192 Hanoi VNA in English 1623 GMT 25 Apr 92

[Text] Hanoi VNA April 25—A delegation of the Ministry of Culture, Information and Sport led by Minister Tran Hoan, member of the Communist Party of Vietnam Central Committee, paid an official week-long visit to China as from April 20.

It was cordially received on April 23 by Li Tieying, Politburo member of the Communist Party of China Central Committee, and member of the Chinese National People's Congress.

Minister Tran Hoan conveyed the greetings of the Vietnamese party and state leaders to their Chinese counterparts.

Mr. Li Tieying expressed his belief that the cooperation and friendship between the two ministries would be further strengthened and developed in accordance with the development of relations in all fields between the two countries.

He asked Minister Tran Hoan to convey the greetings of the Chinese party and state leaders to their Vietnamese counterparts.

Earlier, on April 22, the Vietnamese delegation held talks with a Chinese cultural delegation.

The two sides informed each other of the cultural development in their respective countries and expressed their aspiration for strengthening their cooperative and friendly relations in cultural and art activities.

The two sides signed the minutes of the meeting on cultural cooperation and exchange for 1992-93 and agreed to sign soon an official agreement on cultural cooperation between the two countries.

While in China, the Vietnamese delegation visited a number of cultural projects and beautiful landscapes.

Trade Mission From Netherlands on Visit

BK2404074392 Hanoi VNA in English 0547 GMT 24 Apr 92

[Text] Hanoi VNA April 24—A trade mission from the Netherlands led by Foreign Trade Minister Under the Ministry of Economic Affairs Yvonne Van Rooy arrived here yesterday, beginning a week-long visit to Hanoi and Ho Chi Minh City.

The mission, comprising a number of senior officials from the Ministries of Economic Affairs and Foreign Affairs and the Chamber of Commerce and representatives of 26 companies, was received in the evening by Vietamese Minister of Trade and Tourism Le Van Triet.

Minister Le Van Triet welcomed the visit which is aimed at inquiring into possibilities for economic and trade cooperation and investment. He said he hoped that with their potentials the two countries would further develop their economic and commercial relations.

For her part, the Dutch foreign trade minister said the fact that for the first time The Netherlands sent a great delegation, including many entrepreneurs to Hanoi, showed the seriousness of its desire to develop economic relations with Vietnam. She spoke highly of Vietnam's policy on investment and cooperation with foreign countries.

The Dutch minister affirmed her country's willingness to assist Vietnam in increasing its trade turnover with the European Communities.

Discusses Trade With Kiet

BK2504181592 Hanoi VNA in English 1633 GMT 25 Apr 92

[Text] Hanoi VNA April 25—Chairman of the Council of Ministers Vo Van Kiet received here this morning Ms. Yvonne Van Rooy, foreign trade minister of the Netherlands and her party now on a visit to Vietnam.

Also present were Le Van Triet, minister of commerce and tourism, and Dutch Ambassador George Albert Marie Wehry.

Minister Yvonne Van Rooy thanked the Vietnamese Government and Chairman Vo Van Kiet for their hospitality. She expressed her satisfaction at the results of her working sessions with the minister of commerce and tourism and officials of other ministries concerned, and at the initial agreement in expanding cooperation between the two countries in the fields of communications, transport, irrigation and commerce, as well as in continuing to negotiate the signing of agreements on investment protection and avoidance of double taxation.

She said that Holland is very interested and ready to cooperate with and assist Vietnam with its experiences on the principles of equality, mutual benefit, and respect for each other's sovereignty.

Chairman Vo Van Kiet welcomed the Dutch guests and thanked the Dutch Government and people for their cooperation and assistance, especially in investment, technology, and training.

He highly appreciated the cooperation between the two countries, and said that it could be better developed, because both sides had the requirement and potentiality to do so, and enjoyed each other's sympathy and trust.

He gave some suggestions on the direction of cooperation between the two countries in the coming period, preferably in the building of infrastructure, the breeding of milch cows, the processing of farm produce and food, and scientific and technical research.

He also expressed his hope that after this visit the relations between the two countries would achieve new progress.

Czech Officials Meet With SRV Envoy to Prague

BK2404075392 Hanoi VNA in English 0556 GMT 24 Apr 92

[Text] Hanoi VNA April 24—Antonin Baudys, deputy prime minister of the Czech Republic, chairman of the Czechoslovak sector of the Vietnam-Czechoslovakia Committee for Economic, Scientific and Technical Cooperation have received and had working sessions with Vietnamese Ambassador to Prague Le Tho.

The two sides re-affirmed their continuation to further enhance cooperation in the fields of economy, trade, labour, culture, science and technology in order to develop the traditional relations between the two countries.

Malaysian Delegation's Activities Reported

BK2404143192 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam Network in Vietnamese 1100 GMT 24 Apr 92

[Report on the activities of the Malaysian Government delegation, led by Prime Minister Dr. Mahathir Mohamed, during its official visit to Vietnam]

[Text] At the invitation of Council of Ministers Chairman Vo Van Kiet, Malaysian Prime Minister Mahathir Mohamed and his wife paid an official friendship visit to Vietnam from 19 to 24 April 1992.

Accompanying Prime Minister Mahathir Mohamed were Ahmad Badawi, minister for foreign affairs, and his wife; Samy Vellu, minister of energy, posts, and telecommunications; Mrs. Rafidah Aziz, minister of trade and industry; the chief ministers of the states of Perak, Kedah, Johore, Pahang, and Pinang; and many other high-ranking officials.

Also accompanying the delegation were a Malaysian art troupe, journalists, and more than 100 Malaysian businessmen.

During their stay in Vietnam, Prime Minister Mahathir Mohamed and the distinguised Malaysian guests paid tributes to President Ho Chi Minh at his mausoleum, visited his home and office, toured a number of economic and cultural establishments in Hanoi and Ho Chi Minh City, and attended the token inauguration of the offices of the Renong group of companies and the joint venture bank of the Vietnam Investment and Development Bank and Malaysia's Public Bank in Hanoi. They also attended the inauguration of the Petronas office and groundbreaking ceremony for the construction of the Equatorial Hotel in Ho Chi Minh city.

Prime Minister Mahathir Mohamed and his entourage were cordially received by Party General Secretary Do Muoi and State Council Chairman Vo Chi Cong. Prime Minister Mahathir Mohamed also invited Party General Secretary Do Muoi to visit Malaysia. The invitation was accepted with pleasure.

Prime Minister Mahathir Mohamed and Council of Ministers Chairman Vo Van Kiet held talks on the world and regional situation—an issue of bilateral concern—and discussed measures to further strengthen friendship and cooperation in all domains.

The two sides noted with satisfaction that cooperation in Southeast Asia is developing in the right direction and focused on promoting peace, stability, and development. This is in line with the current world trend.

They noted with elation that their friendship and cooperation in all domains on the basis of mutual benefit have during the recent past achieved new progress, in the interests of prosperity in each country and to peace, stability, friendship, and cooperation in Southeast Asia and the world.

To further strengthen and develop their friendship and existing multisided cooperation, they signed an agreement on economic, scientific, and technical cooperation, and agreement on post and telecommunication cooperation, and also a memorandum of understanding on Malaysia's technical aid to Vietnam worth 1.72 million ringgit—an equivalent of $700,000.

Both sides agreed to open negotiations at an early date for the signing of agreements on commerce, double taxation, and tourism, and cultural and sports cooperation aimed at consolidating the foundation for their specific ties.

The Malaysian Government has also pledged to readily share its experiences in development with Vietnam and to assist it in the rubber industry, management, administration, and technical training. All the talks and meetings proceeded in an atmosphere of cordiality, openness, mutual trust, and understanding.

The success of the official visit to Malaysia in January by Council of Ministers Chairman Vo Van Kiet and the success of this visit to Vietnam by Prime Minister Mahathir Mohamed are important milestones in the efforts to strengthen mutual understanding and trust, friendship and diversified cooperation, as well as to help strenghthen friendship and cooperation in Southeast Asia.

Prime Minister Mahathir Mohamed heartily thanked the government and people of Vietnam for the welcome and hospitality accorded his delegation.

Delegation Concludes Visit

BK2404162392 Hanoi VNA in English 1527 GMT 24 Apr 92

[Text] Hanoi VNA April 24—Malaysian Prime Minister Mahathir Mohamed and his wife left Ho Chi Minh City this morning, concluding their official visit to Vietnam.

They were seen off at Tan Son Nhat Airport by Tran Xuan Gia, director of the Office of the Council of Ministers, and leaders of the city People's Council and People's Committee.

Malaysian Consul General Adbul Latiff Awang was also present.

Constitution's Economic Freedoms, Party Control

BK2404023192 Bangkok THE NATION in English 24 Apr 92 p A8

[By Kawi Chongkitthawon]

[Text] Economic reform and a desire to integrate with the world community are the real forces pushing the adoption of a new Constitution in Vietnam. But the Constitution, promulgated on Monday, contains little that will actually diminish the power of the Communist Party or undercut the leadership role of key party leaders.

For people on the street, the new Constitution will give them more freedom to run their private lives and make money—something they have enjoyed unofficially in recent years.

Although all past constitutions mentioned freedom of speech, press, and assembly, such rights were never meant to be upheld in practice. The country's ideology of socialism overrode individual freedoms. There is still no free press in Vietnam, and all media are controlled by state or mass organizations.

The present Constitution also gives the Vietnamese people freedom of speech, press, and assembly as regulated by law. But no officials here can say for certain whether such a broad definition will allow for an independent press or dissenting views in the near future.

Communist Party chief Do Muoi did indicate early this month that people must have freedom and democracy, but added that they should not be construed as the right to do anything they want.

However, the Constitution mentions respect of human rights for the first time, and this is generally seen as an attempt to boost Vietnam's international image. The West has criticized Vietnam's past human rights record. But the past few months also saw the release of several political prisoners here.

In principle, basic citizen's rights are guaranteed under the Constitution. Vietnamese people can travel abroad, do business, and send their children abroad. Farmers can transfer land-use rights to their children. But the land still belongs to the state.

Other provisions include compensation against unlawful arrest or detention without trial. People are considered innocent until they are proven guilty in court. And foreign investment will not be nationalized.

But in practice, things remain different. For every Vietnamese who is travelling abroad, an exit visa from the Foreign Ministry's Protocol Department is compulsory. And land ownership has yet to be worked out in detail.

To effectively bring about more individual freedom, a new legislature must be introduced or the old one scrapped in the near future, say foreign diplomats based here.

Regarding the party's role, the Constitution states clearly that the party is still the boss. From now on, however, the party's activities must be within the confines of law. But of course what laws are passed still depend greatly on the party.

The party recognizes the increased power of the National Assembly and its standing committees in making laws and appointing the country's top officials. Formerly, the party's powerful Politburo decided everything.

Vu Mao, director of Office of the National Assembly and State Council, says the new Constitution will enable more capable and efficient deputies to work for the National Assembly. He adds that general elections will be held on July 19 to be followed by a presidential election on Sept 13.

To prepare for the task, Mao says there will be permanent staffers working for the various standing committees serving the smaller assembly overseeing economic, foreign, science, public health, and social welfare affairs as well as defence and security matters.

The post of premier will be stronger in administrating the country—including appointing the Cabinet members and local authorities. The premier has a veto power over candidates proposed by the local authorities, notably the people's committee.

The new Constitution paves the way for Vietnam to develop closer ties with other countries, regardless of their economic and political systems, and rejoin the world community.

It no longer mentions China or the United States as enemies. Instead it calls for good relations with every country. Vietnam's new foreign policy is "a policy of peace, friendship and expanded international relations and cooperation with all countries in the world, irrespective of their political and social system," based on the Five Principles of Peaceful Coexistence.

Government officials and deputies have expressed satisfaction over the progress made in foreign affairs since the Seventh Party Congress last June.

In his closing speech at the National Assembly last week, Le Quang Dao, the assembly's president, said the world situation has changed significantly in recent years and has brought about favourable new opportunities for Vietnam.

Since the last party congress, Dao said Vietnam had carried out a "diplomatic offensive (in all) directions by improving ties with every country with some of them contributing to the country's national development and preserving the name and prestige of Vietnam in international fora."

Despite all the progress made on the new Constitution, local critics continue to ask: Will Vietnam's new Constitution open the way for bolder political reforms, which have been very slow in coming?

Party leaders contend that the country needs further political stability to develop its economy. But the critics feel that such an argument is an excuse for further political oppression in the country.

Vietnamese leaders are trying to draw lessons from the collapse of communist regimes in Europe in order to avoid committing similar mistakes. Any drastic political reforms cna be ruled out for now in Vietnam, whereas economic reform will continue to be the first priority.

Article Discusses Nationalities Policy

BK2704072692 Hanoi VNA in English 0542 GMT 25 Apr 92

[Text] Hanoi VNA April 25—How to correctly perceive and implement the Communist Party of Vietnam's policy on nationalities in the renovation process was discussed by Nong Duc Manh, Politburo member and head of the Commission of Nationalties of the party Central Committee, in the latest issue of the ALL-PEOPLE'S DEFENCE REVIEW. Following are main excerpts:

The question of nationalities has of late surfaced in all its poignancy not only in the Third World countries but also in many developed countries. In the former Soviet Union and East European countries, the question of nationalities has rendered the situation more complicated and aggravated the allround crisis. In Vietnam, the question of nationalities is not like in other countries. Socio-economic development and burning questions in the material and spiritual life of the ethnic minorities, especially those on the highlands, border and remote areas and former resistance bases, are posing acute problems. The imperialists and reactionaries are using this question and religion to inflame public opinion and break up our national unity in order to provoke political unstability, and undermine our efforts in renovation to build socialism and defend the motherland.

In line with the resolution of the 7th Party Congress, the party's policy on nationalities is aimed at helping all nationalities in the country develop comprehensively, step by step bridge the gap in economic and cultural levels among them on the road to socialism, and achieving equality, solidarity and common progress on the basis of respect for the interests, traditions, culture, languages and customs of all.

The main objective of the party's policy on nationalities is to develop the economy and society of all regions and all nationalities in harmony with national development as a basis for enhancing national unity and achieving equality among all ethnic groups.

The party's policy on nationalities accords with the democratic and humane nature of socialism. It stems from the fundamental principle that all ethnic groups, big and small, even with very few members, irrespective of their history and development level, have the right to exist and develop in their capacity as masters of their destinies and the interests of each group in a unified nation must be respected.

At present, the economy of the ethnic minorities in our country remains largely an autarkical one. Hence, to develop the multi-sector commodities economy in the direction of socialism along with building a new countryside in a suitable way is the right measure and decisive factor to accelerate socio-economic development of the ethnic minorities.

Land is owned by the entire people and managed by the state. The state respects the right to land use of those farmer families who have cultivated their land over a long time or have reclaimed it from waste land. With regard to the state-owned organizations which have developed land in mountain areas, their possessions should be reallocated on the principle of democracy, equality and respect for the legitimate interests of the local population. Where the farmers have not enough land to cultivate, part of the population should be moved to places where conditions are more stable for agricultural production. More support must be given to those who leave their native places for new economic zones and strict measures should be taken to stem the current unorganized and spontaneous migration of population.

Together with allocating land and forest land to farmer household for long-time use, the state must issue preferential policies on credit and finance (including reduction and exemption of import and export taxes) in order to attract people inside and outside the country to invest in developing remote mountain areas. Priority must be given to projects on environmental protection and humanitarian aid programs of international organizations aimed at solving urgent socio-economic problems in areas inhabited by ethnic minorities. To raise the cultural standard of all ethnic groups in the country is an extremely important work in the strategy for socio-economic stabilisation and development in areas inhabited by ethnic minorities. In the immediate future, it is necessary to effectively implement the literacy programme and the programme for universalization of primary education in a way suited to the specific conditions of each region and each ethnic group. The state shall increase investment in the health service in the areas of ethnic minorities, actively carry out the national programme to combat malaria and goitre and stamp out epidemic breeding centres which are causing a high mortality rate and the decline of population in a number of areas inhabited by ethnic minorities. The population and family planning programme will be stepped up through more suitable measures. The planting and processing of herbal medicine and use of traditional recipes of galenic medicine for disease prevention and treatment should be encouraged. There also must be more active training of local medical workers and adoption of preferential policies in the collection of hospital fees in these areas. Also preferential treatment must be effected in the supply and pricing of some essential goods like rice, salt, kerosene, writing paper, medicaments, cultural and art services for the mountain people. The target is set for a basic solution to the driking in the highlands and in the areas inhabited by the Khmer ethnicity in South Vietnam. The development of each ethnicity depends first and foremost on the efforts of its own people. The party and state guarantee all ethnic groups' right to participate in the leading organs of the political system at all levels, in the discussions and decisions of the economic and social issues bearing on areas inhabited by ethic minorities. The organs of power, before discussing and deciding problems concerning the interests and life of any ethnic group, must ensure that this group can express their views and desire. The opinions of their deputies at the national assembly and the people's councils at various levels must be respected and in no circumstances should a majority view be imposed on them. In any case, they must be consulted, invited to deliberate in order to find out the optimal solution to problems arising from the practice of life. Never should the state allow itself to replace them in making decisions on matters relating to them.

Australia

Keating Cites Closer Ties With Indonesia, Asia

BK2404104692 Melbourne Radio Australia in English 0800 GMT 24 Apr 92

[From the "International Report" program]

[Excerpts] The Australian prime minister, Paul Keating, is now in Papua New Guinea having completed his four-day visit to Indonesia. He is claiming that his Indonesian visit achieved his goal of setting up a new and much closer relationship with Australia's northern neighbor, and as Peter Cave reports, Mr. Keating maintains his focus on the need to replace Australia's traditional ties by greater integration with Asia.

[Begin recording] [Keating] After a day of looking at temples and now looking at traditional dancing and traditional music, and some romantic songs from Dean Martin and a few other people, I felt like giving you a song instead of a speech. [passage omitted]

As never before in our history, we recognize that our future lies substantially in our own region—in Asia and the Pacific—indeed in Indonesia; that is where the great opportunity is. We know that (?taking) that opportunity will be no easy thing to do. It involves something like a revolution in the way we do things and the way we think about ourselves and the world.

We have been for so long a branch office of the empire. There is a tendency to go on expecting special treatment long after the head office stopped opening the mail. If this were characteristic of Australia once, it is not true now. We do not entertain the notion that someone else will do the hard things for us (?or to us).

Ladies and gentlemen, Australia is changing. Our economy is emerging from a recession in more competitive shape than it has ever been. We are casting aside the baggage of the past and directing our energies toward greater integration with our region. And within this region, we look especially to our relationship with Indonesia—our largest and most important neighbor—as a material and (?significant) example of the way our countries are resolving themselves for the 21st Century. [end recording] [passage omitted]

Returns From Indonesia, PNG Trips

BK2704072292 Melbourne Radio Australia in English 0500 GMT 27 Apr 92

[Text] The prime minister is back home after his first overseas trip since taking office. He says his visit to Indonesia and Papua New Guinea [PNG] was a success.

[Begin Keating recording] It was about two things. It was about the neighborhood—making our place more certain in the immediate region; trying to put the Indonesian relationship into its proper context and at the same time accepting the prime minister of PNG's offer to be there for the 50th anniversary of the PNG campaign on ANZAC Day. [end recording]

Fiji

Election Date Announced, Opposition Plans Boycott

BK2304092092 Melbourne Radio Australia in English 0800 GMT 23 Apr 92

[Text] Fiji is to hold its first general elections since the 1987 military coups next month. Announcing the long-awaited election date, President Ratu Sir Penaia Ganilau said polling will be over eight days from 23 May, a week later than a recently set target of 16 May.

Australian Associated Press says when the present interim government was established after the second military coup in 1987, it was expected that a new constitution would be framed and elections held within a year.

Meanwhile, the secretary general of the opposition Fiji Labor Party, Navin Maharaj, said a special party delegates' conference would be held on Saturday to decide whether to draw plans to boycott the elections.

Papua New Guinea

Police Fire Live Ammo To Quell Riot, 3 Injured

BK2304103492 Melbourne Radio Australia in English 0800 GMT 23 Apr 92

[Text] Police In Papua New Guinea [PNG] have fired live ammunition and tear gas to quell an election riot in the Southern Highlands provincial capital of Mendi. Brian Abbott reports from Port Moresby that three people are in hospital—two with bullet wounds, the third with an arrow wound, after thousands of people ravaged through Mendi for more than two hours.

[Begin Abbott recording] Supporters of three rival candidates, including Transport Minister Anthony Temo, clashed. (?Mr. Anthony) had been nominated for June's national elections. What started as abuse ended in an estimated 10,000 people rampaging through Mendi town, destroying cars, looting and wrecking shops, and fighting with sticks, stones, bows and arrows.

The battles continued for about two hours and when tear gas failed to control the crowd police fired live ammunition as warning shots. A woman was hit in the arm and a man shot with shotgun pellets in the head.

Police have appealed for calm for the remaining seven weeks of campaigning before the national elections in June. [end recording]